





# Labour and Liberals on course to abandon fight for metropolitan councils

By Hugh Clayton, Local Government Correspondent

Hopes of rescuing the six metropolitan county councils after their abolition by the Government are being quietly abandoned by opposition parties.

Mr John Gurnell, Labour leader of the threatened West Yorkshire County Council, said the attitude of his party's national spokesmen had been "unhelpful".

As ministers prepare for the final countdown to abolition in 1986, Labour and the Liberal Party are showing a clearer commitment to rescuing the Greater London Council than to any of the other six threatened authorities.

Ministers hope to publish a local government Bill this week allowing them to scrap all seven Labour-led councils on the same day. A network of committees and smaller councils that is meant to take on the work of the disbanded authorities will be set out in the Bill. It is not expected to differ much from the pattern suggested in a Government consultative paper last July.

As well as the GLC, the Government wants to get rid of the county councils of South

Yorkshire, West Yorkshire, Merseyside, Greater Manchester, West Midlands and Tyne and Wear. Labour and the Liberals will vote against the proposals in Parliament.

Mr Simon Hughes, Liberal parliamentary spokesman on local government, explained that the GLC was worth keeping because it could be used as a prototype of the sort of regional assembly that his party wanted throughout Britain. The metropolitan county councils were too small for the job, and Liberals had opposed their creation in the 1970s.

Some Labour politicians in London such as Mr Ken Livingstone, the GLC leader, trace the GLC back almost a hundred years, and see it as a history of close association with the aspirations of Londoners. They see the metropolitan county councils as the much more recent inventions of a Conservative government. Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, said in September that a future Labour government would revive the GLC in substantially its present form. In spite of goading from ministers he has given no such

commitment to the metropolitan counties.

"I think it is unhelpful to us that we have not had that sort of commitment", Mr Gurnell said. "I think it would help us if the Labour Party's commitment to sensible metropolitan government was clearer."

He also indicated that the Labour leaders of the threatened councils outside London might drop plans to hold what he called "covert" by-elections next year, elections of the type forced by Mr Livingstone and Labour colleagues in London in September.

A boycott of the polls by most London Conservatives reduced the turnout embarrassingly in what was to have been a test of public distaste for the Government's abolition programme.

Thinking in the metropolitan counties has been influenced by a little-noticed by-election caused last week by the resignation, through ill-health, of a Labour member of Tyne and Wear County Council in Sunderland. The result was a victory for Labour, with 822 votes, over the British National Party, with 109.



Old comrades: Members of the Jewish Ex-Servicemen's Association marching past Field Marshal Lord Haig's statue in Whitehall before placing wreaths on the Cenotaph (Photograph: Dod Miller).

# MPs to hold public investigation of Special Branch

By Richard Evans, Lobby Reporter

The Commons investigation into the Special Branch due to start next week, will all be conducted in public. In an unprecedented move, MPs on the Conservative-dominated home affairs select committee decided that no witness, including senior police and Home Office officials, will be allowed to appear in private, however sensitive they claim their evidence.

At least three chief constables are expected to be questioned on the Special Branch's role, resources, training and public accountability. The inquiry will be the first time the Special Branch has been subjected to public scrutiny since its formation in 1883.

Sir Edward Gardner, QC, Conservative MP for Fylde and committee chairman, said: "We hope as a committee to be able to take all evidence in open session and to allow the public and media to understand the nature of the evidence we have to rely upon."

"What we don't want is to have put into our possession in private evidence of such a sensitive nature that we should all feel uneasy about having and would fear might influence the conclusions that ultimately we have got to come to."

Underlying the decision is the fear of several MPs that they will be deliberately thwarted in their inquiry into such a sensitive area by not receiving

enough detailed evidence to reach proper conclusions. Such an outcome would not displease some Tories on the committee who believe the investigation arises, at best, from inquisitiveness based upon ignorance, and, at worst, from a desire to knock the police.

Although the Special Branch is an arm of the police, one of its most important jobs is gathering political intelligence, which brings it into regular and close contact with MI5 and MI6.

All 43 police forces in England and Wales have a Special Branch and except for that of the Metropolitan Police, which has special responsibilities involving Irish republicanism throughout Great Britain, each branch is responsible for its area.

The Home Office says the Metropolitan Police's Special Branch has 379 officers, 73 involved in port duties, especially at Heathrow, and 67 engaged in personal protection work. Special Branch offices in other forces in England and Wales number about 870.

The Association of Chief Police Officers, the National Council for Civil Liberties, the Association of Metropolitan Authorities and the Home Office are due to give evidence. But it is uncertain if Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, will appear.

# Brittan urged to aid Guernsey prisoner

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

The Home Secretary, Mr Leon Brittan, has been asked to use his powers to transfer a prisoner from Guernsey to a mainland jail because the prisoner is alleged to have been mistreated.

He is an English veterinary surgeon, Maurice Kirk, aged 39 and married with two children, who was sentenced to eight months' imprisonment for contempt of court on July 17.

Mr George Foulkes, an Opposition front bench spokesman, has told Mr Brittan that Kirk is being kept in solitary confinement, that many letters to solicitors and mainland MPs have been confiscated on the ground that they are too long, and that he says that he has been denied medical attention, although he has been on hunger strike.

The MP said yesterday: "While a United Kingdom prisoner in need of medical attention is automatically checked by a doctor on a regular basis, this appears not to be the case in Guernsey."

He said that people who have met Kirk and his wife say they are both close to breakdown.

The case began last December when Kirk appeared in a Guernsey court charged with a drink-driving offence. During the hearing he left the dock and moved towards the magistrate. He was stopped by two police officers and a table was overturned in the mêlée.

He was fined for the drink-driving offence, but three months later he was told that he was being charged with disorderly conduct. Less than a minute before committal proceedings began he was told of the contempt charge.

Mr Foulkes said: "By constitutional convention Guernsey and the Isle of Man are self-governing on internal matters. But Westminster has a paramount right to legislate for the islands and if the Guernsey authorities fail to put their own house in order, then the House of Commons ought to consider exercising its paramount authority."

# Clampdown on quangos expected

By Our Defence Correspondent

Lord Gowrie, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and the Cabinet Minister with responsibility for the Civil Service, will today announce a new clampdown on Whitehall's quangos, four Political Correspondents write.

The Prime Minister has taken strong action to reduce the number of the quasi-autonomous, non-government organisations, although Sir Philip Hordson, the senior Tory backbencher who has campaigned against them, is convinced that more must be done.

While 600 have been scrapped since 1979, it is suggested that more than a hundred others have been created and more than 1,500 remain.

Today's initiative by the Management and Personnel Office, Lord Gowrie's department, will put the remaining quangos under the same efficiency and effectiveness controls as Whitehall offices.

Value for money will be sought by ensuring that each quango has a direct line for financial accountability and that there is a real need for the work being done at the taxpayers' expense. It is argued that if some of Whitehall's functions can be privatised, there is no reason why the quangos should be exempted from the same process.

# Navy dilemma on assault ships

By Our Defence Correspondent

The Royal Navy is carrying out a review of the shipping it will need to maintain its ability to mount amphibious operations from the mid-1990s, when its two assault ships, Fearless and Intrepid, reach the end of their lives.

In spite of reports to the contrary, there is no evidence that the future of the Royal Marines is in serious doubt. During the last defence policy review, carried out by Sir John Nott in 1981, the abolition of the Marines was one of the options considered but the idea was quickly abandoned.

It was announced, however, that Fearless and Intrepid, the two ships on which the Marines' amphibious role primarily depends, were to be taken out of service.

That decision was then reversed, in time for Fearless to play a prominent role in the Falklands conflict. Earlier this year, it was announced that both ships were to be given refits to extend their lives well into the next decade.

The Government was generally considered to have committed

itself also to maintain an amphibious capability when those ships are eventually taken out of service.

Various courses have been suggested to avoid direct replacements for the assault ships. The three aircraft carriers, Illustrious, Invincible, and the new Ark Royal, which enters service with the Navy next summer, have subsidiary roles operating with the Royal Marines in amphibious operations.

Later this month, Illustrious will for the first time be practising that role with the Dutch Marines, who work very closely with the Royal Marines. The carriers are not, however, seen within the Navy as a satisfactory alternative to specialist amphibious ships, because in a severe crisis they would almost certainly be required for other tasks, primarily anti-submarine warfare.

The use of roll-on, roll-off ferries has also been tried, but an exercise held in Denmark this autumn showed the considerable limitations in that role.

Speculation about the future of the Marines appears to rise because during the next five-to-ten years, when on present indications, there would be little if any growth in defence spending, the Navy faces an unusually heavy building programme of new ships.

That includes four submarines for the Trident missile system, new classes of frigate, Type 23, and diesel-electric submarine, Type 200, and the replacement of the assault ships.

It is asked whether all those ships can be contained within the resources likely to be available. The primary role of the Marines in a European war would be in defence of Arctic Norway, for which they are widely regarded as much the best force available to NATO. Any move putting in doubt their role would therefore be likely to arouse objections within NATO, as well as an intense hostility from the Conservative back benches.

Mini subs off Gibraltar, page 7  
Illustrous text, back page

# Metropolitan Police to be reorganized

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

Scotland Yard is to give details of a secret plan for the reorganization of the Metropolitan Police to senior officers tomorrow.

The plan, which has taken two years to devise, has been seen by Home Office and by officers of the rank of deputy assistant commissioner and above. Tomorrow it will be presented to the middle ranks, including commanders and superintendents.

Intended to streamline the Metropolitan Police, which, with 27,000 officers, is one of the largest single police forces in the world, the plan may create controversy within the force's ranks.

There is speculation that it will mean a reduction in the number of commanders and greater devolution of power from Scotland Yard to the areas, districts, and divisions.

One suggestion that has been at the centre of speculation is an increase in the number of police areas from four to at least five, including the creation of a special area for central London.

Scotland Yard has certainly expressed the belief that policing an area including Buckingham Palace, the Houses of Parliament, and many diplomatic buildings is a special and separate policing job.

Each of the police areas might be given greater autonomy in the hope that the force will lose the impression of being a huge and impersonal organization. Some centralized departments at the Yard covering back-up services could be broken up.

Attempts at reorganization in the late 1970s failed, but Sir Kenneth Newman, the commissioner, has promised to bring greater efficiency and changes to a force that has been beset by critics in recent years.

# Owen and Steel to develop strategy for Alliance

By Our Political Correspondent

Dr David Owen and Mr David Steel are expected to develop a strategy for an Alliance campaign during this Parliament at a leaders' meeting of the Social Democratic and Liberal parties in the Commons tomorrow.

Discussions have been taking place and it is understood that the two men have agreed a framework to promote a " tandem leadership".

It was emphasized last night that no agreements were being made and that there was no talk between the two leaders of merger.

Dr Owen remains steadfastly opposed to merger, which explains his continuing resistance to the joint selection of candidates.

But a report that Dr Owen had threatened to resign over the selection issue at an SDP committee meeting last week was dismissed as nonsense.

# Council's £30m bank loan

A £30m loan from the European Investment Bank to Strathclyde Regional Council, has been signed by Mr David Sanderson, chairman of the council's finance committee, and Mr Kenneth Peterson, the region's director of finance.

The favourable rate of interest negotiated with the bank (10 per cent - 1/2 per cent lower than the Public Works Loan Board rate) means a £750,000 saving to ratepayers during the 16-year period of the loan, Mr Sanderson said in Glasgow yesterday.

# Brothers drown after wedding

Three brothers from the Connemara village of Rossaveil in co Galway were drowned at the weekend at the village of Carraroe Pier near, after attending a wedding of another brother.

Relatives were worried when they had not returned by lunchtime yesterday and about 2.30 pm their car was seen about 20ft off Carraroe Pier.

# Birthday party for sextuplets

The six Waltons, Britain's only surviving sextuplets, yesterday celebrated their first birthday.

The sextuplets attended a party at the Leasowe Castle Hotel in Notcurn, Wirral. The 150 guests included some of the hospital staff who helped to deliver them.

# Civil servants may break race deadlock

By Our Political Correspondent

A special conference of the Civil and Public Services Association is to be asked to break the Whitehall deadlock on ethnic monitoring, the accepted procedure for measuring employment discrimination.

The Government gave a firm Commons commitment to ethnic monitoring on December 10, 1981, after Lord Scarman's report on *The British Disasters* had said that Whitehall had to give "a clear lead" on measuring the scale and spread of racial disadvantage.

Since then two surveys have been held into ethnic monitoring, in which a high response rate showed a disparity between the number of ethnic minority members employed in the Civil Service and the number in local communities.

But ministers have refused to take the issue further because of a resolution passed by the CPSSA at a conference last May. It is said that the hostile resolution, opposing the extension of

ethnic monitoring through the Civil Service, had been prompted by Militant Tendency supporters, known for their stand against any form of positive discrimination.

Mr John Ellis, deputy general secretary of CPSSA, has written to all members of the union, explaining "why we need ethnic monitoring in the Civil Service", and why next month's conference needs to reverse the May resolution.

He says that monitoring is essential to show the ratios of white, Asian and black employees by comparison with local communities and to establish "the comparative rate of career progression".

The Government's official code of practice "for the elimination of racial discrimination" says that employers "should regularly monitor the effects of selection decisions and personnel practices and procedures in order to assess whether equal opportunity is being achieved".

# Cruise base protest

By Pat Healy

Plans to obstruct the building of a second Cruise missile base in Britain at the disused airfield at RAF Moulsworth in Cambridgeshire are being launched this week by the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament.

Supporters are being asked to promise that they will join the peace village already established at Moulsworth to resist building work on the 800-acre site.

Moulsworth is due to receive 64 cruise missiles and their support launchers and control vehicles in 1988, but the site is open and unfenced. Peace

campers, who have set up "Rainbow Fields Village" on "Ministry of Defence land within the site, believe that before work can begin on silos for the missiles a fence will have to be put up to keep protesters out.

The aim of the campaign, details of which were discussed by the CND council yesterday, would be to prevent that fence being built.

Moulsworth is to be the venue of CND's main Easter demonstration next year, with marches and a rally on the site on Easter Monday.



Mr John Berry: Said to be in Spain.

# Inquiry into blunder

A top-level police inquiry is to be held into a blunder which allowed a man accused of supplying terrorists with bomb-making equipment to flee the country.

John Berry, a Norwich businessman, is said to be in hiding in Spain, with whom Britain does not have an extradition treaty.

Mr Berry, aged 45, a former sales manager from Lotus Cars, was jailed at Chelmsford Crown Court in May last year for eight years for selling electronic timing devices for bombs to Arab terrorists.

Last March the conviction was quashed by the Court of Appeal on a technicality, but the prosecution then referred the case to the House of Lords.

While the Lords were hearing legal arguments about the affair 11 days ago, Mr Berry went missing. He had been granted bail on condition that he surrendered his passport and reported to the police.

The Sunday Times said it had traced Mr Berry to Malaga, where he was staying with friends. The newspaper said he claimed he was innocent and was determined to clear his name.

# New signs of car strike collapse

Support for the two-week old BL pay strike showed fresh signs of collapse during the weekend at Austin Rover's body and assembly plants at Cowley, Oxford.

Skilled pipe fitters and pattern makers decided yesterday to cross picket lines today; a similar decision was taken on Saturday by 450 engineering union craftsmen.

The craftsmen had previously accepted the company's pay offer of 10 per cent spread over the next two years, but were unwilling to cross picket lines. Their change of mind means that the previously quiet picket lines at Cowley are likely to see some form of confrontation today.

BL's resistance to any climb-down was emphasized by Mr Norman Haslam, the company's director of employee relations.

● Austin Rover is due to return to the High Court today to begin contempt proceedings against defiant union leaders (the Press Association reports). It plans to ask for damages from those unions which have not rejected the strike in line with the injunction granted a fortnight ago.

# Jesuit may be an Eton chaplain

By Patricia Clough

Eton College is expected to announce shortly the appointment of a Jesuit as its first resident Roman Catholic chaplain.

Father Peter Knott, Superior of the Farm Street community in London, has been made available by his order to look after the 130 Roman Catholics among Eton's 1,250 pupils, but details have not yet been worked out. The school has four Anglican chaplains.

Mr Eric Anderson, the Headmaster, said that Eton had had Roman Catholic boys for the past 50 years and that priests had come in to say mass on Sundays and were available for pastoral work on one other day in the week.

"The difference is that we are hoping to combine a residential job with some parish work around Eton or with teaching in the school."

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From Tim Jones Cardiff

The Secretary of State for Wales will be asked today whether he approves of the National Museum of Wales's purchasing policy. When he rises in the Commons to answer that apparently innocent question, Mr Nicholas Edwards will know that he is being asked to walk where experts fear to tread.

The question posed by Mrs Ann Clwyd, Labour MP for Cynon Valley, is the latest round in a five-year saga to discover whether four 9 foot high cartoons hanging in the

museum in Cardiff are an exciting art find or, as one governor alleged, "the most costly pieces of dirty old paper in history".

When the four cartoons, "The History of Aeneas", were first displayed in 1979 Dr Peter Canon-Brookes, keeper of the art department, said there was no doubt they were the work of Rubens. He has consistently defended that view.

The cartoons were obtained from an unnamed family now living in Switzerland. The museum's director, Dr Douglas Bassett, has refused to say how much it paid, but in a letter

making an unsuccessful plea to the Welsh Office for assistance, the price was given as £1.2m.

The most serious disagreement about the cartoons' authenticity has come from two of the world's leading Rubens experts.

Professor Michael Jaffe, director of the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, who advised on the purchase, is convinced that they are Rubens's work.

Last month, the museum governors decided by 36 to 22 votes to ask the Courtauld Institute of Art in London to

nominate three experts to assess their authenticity.

But when Dr Bassett visited the institute last Thursday he was told by Professor Peter Laske, its director, that the institute could only prepare a list containing several names from which the museum could choose.

Professor Laske said: "I think the notion that we can simply appoint three people to act as judge and jury in this case is not really accurate. I think to imagine that a totally acceptable solution will be produced in this way is highly unlikely."



## British Airways anger at 'mischievous' report criticizing its efficiency

By Jonathan Davis, Business Correspondent

British Airways reacted furiously yesterday to an independent report describing it as one of the world's least efficient airlines and warning that it could become a "flying British Leyland" unless forced to face up to more competition. The report, from the Institute for Fiscal Studies, a respected and privately-funded research institute in London, comes at an embarrassing time for the state-owned airline, which is making final preparations for its planned privatization in the early spring of next year.

No sooner had the detailed 168-page report appeared yesterday than British Airways was calling it "highly academic, statistically misleading and overall of little material worth". The institute, nestled in its turn, accused the airline of hysterical over-reaction.

Ironically, the institute in its report acknowledges there has been some performance and efficiency, which has helped British Airways turn its heavy losses of three years ago into annual profits now running at more than £250m a year.

But it says: "The much publicized view of a dramatic improvement in efficiency is not borne out by the evidence. Its improvement over the past three years has been good, though hardly spectacular." While improving relative to other airlines over the past few years, it remains "a weak performer".

The institute claims that 30 per cent of the improvement in profits has been due to favourable movements in exchange rates, and says that the airline has also benefited from a lack of competition and from being able to use Heathrow on favoured terms.

While British Airways' labour productivity has improved by 9 per cent a year during the past three years, it still lags behind the productivity levels attained by airlines such as Air France, Lufthansa, and British Caledonian.

The institute rubs salt into BA's wound by concluding, after studying the efficiency of 33 international airlines, that British Caledonian, BA's main British rival, is one of the most efficient airlines in the world. The report argues that it is vital that there is more competition in Britain's airline industry before British Airways is privatized.

It is particularly critical of the refusal by the Government and the airline to disclose details of the profitability of its various routes. That would make a fair valuation when it is sold next February or March almost impossible.

"Air France and Qantas know far more about these BA assets than the potential buyer, or the owner, the taxpayer," it argues. "In this respect the Government is acting like a used-car salesman who assures you that the car runs well, but will not show you the engine".

In its reply yesterday, British Airways said the timing of the report is "mischievous". The conclusions were based on "out-of-date" information and were well below the high standard of research normally associated with the institute.

Civil Aviation and the Privatization of British Airways by Peter Forsyth and Mark Ashworth (Institute for Fiscal Studies, 1/2 Castle Lane, London SW1E 6DR).

## Optimism for Virgin flights

By David Cross

Virgin Atlantic, the cut-price airline launched last June by Mr Richard Branson, the head of Virgin Records, should break even during its first year of operations.

As a result, it was almost certain that the company would stay in business beyond next summer when the lease on its Boeing 747 aircraft came up for renewal, Mr Branson told a press conference at Maastricht in southern Holland at the weekend.

Mr Branson, who was launching his new route from Gatwick airport to the Continent, said that Virgin Atlantic was expected to make a first year profit of about £3.5m on its transatlantic freight business. That would offset comparable losses on the passenger side, he said. To break even after a year would be "very unusual for a new airline".

Outlining strategy for the future, he said that he wanted Virgin Atlantic to grow slowly and steadily. He had no immediate plans to add more routes to the existing network until the new feeder service between Gatwick and Maastricht had proved its worth.

### Children's lounge

British Airways is to open a special children's lounge at Heathrow airport, with toys, books and video games, and untrained staff in attendance (the Press Association reports).

Services include personal escorts for children from the lounge, in terminal 3, to their flights.



Bishop Desmond Tutu, the new Bishop of Johannesburg, leaving St Michael's church, Stockwell, south west London, after his sermon there yesterday. (Photograph: Murray Job).

## Father missing in rescue attempt

One man, a policeman, died and two men were missing yesterday in two separate incidents.

In the first, police frogmen searched the river Trent after a man dived from his motor yacht at Gunthorpe Bridge, Nottinghamshire, in an attempt to rescue his son, aged 15 months.

The man, from Raddington, near Nottingham, and the child were swept away by the

current, but the child was rescued by fishermen and was taken to hospital in a serious condition.

Fishermen also rescued a second child, a boy aged four, from the motor yacht which had drifted down river and into a bank after the man dived in.

The other incident involved two Leicestershire policemen who had been staying at a holiday camp at Humberside,

Humberside, where 2,000 policemen doing Yorkshire mining picket duty are quartered.

Sergeant Anthony Dennis Lawrence, aged 38, and Sergeant John Frederick Bell, aged 36, took a dinghy out into the Humber estuary off Cleethorpes on an angling trip on Saturday. Sgt Lawrence's body was found at Tetney Lock, seven miles away.

## Campaign to dispel image of wood homes

By Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent

A campaign is to be launched this week in an attempt to reverse bad publicity about construction and safety of timber-frame houses. The marked share of timber-frame dwellings was substantially reduced in the past two years.

The Timber and Brick Homes Information Council has been formed and is shortly to start a national press advertising campaign. Acknowledging that timber frame has been a controversial issue for the past two years, they say it has been attacked as being "unsafe, insufficiently tested and a bad investment". These claims are unfounded and do not fit the facts.

Adverse publicity reached a peak with the *World in Action* television programme in June, 1983, criticizing timber-frame housing, after which many builders, including Barratt Developments, which were singled out for their construction of timber-frame homes cut back building by this method and returned predominantly to traditional brick construction.

Figures from the National House-building Council show that timber frame starts, as a proportion of total housing starts in the private sector, reached 25 per cent in Britain by the end of 1982. In the first half of 1983 they reduced to 24 per cent and then to 20 per cent by the end of the year. During 1984 their market share has gone down from 16 per cent in the first quarter to 13 per cent in the second quarter and 12 per cent in the third quarter.

In England the proportion which reached 24 per cent in 1982, is now down to 11 per cent, and in Scotland, where the timber frame has been more popular, the proportion, which released 51 per cent early in 1983, now stands at 37 per cent.

## More lures for farmers to give up dairy herds

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

The Government is considering new inducements to persuade farmers to give up dairying. Response to its compensation scheme, for which £50m has been allocated, has so far been much smaller than was expected.

It has been hoped that enough producers would agree to join the so-called outgoers' scheme to provide a significant "spare" quota for redistribution to farmers who successfully claimed special hardship, namely those who had invested in approved expansion schemes and whose present quotas would make their businesses unviable.

In early October, the scheme had attracted 2,747 applicants, with a combined production of some 275 million litres a year. But the scheme gives them four weeks to reconsider, and by the end of the month two thirds of them had had second thoughts, leaving 828 applicants with a total quota of 54 million litres.

It seems likely that most of them either believed they had no prospects of employment elsewhere or decided to look into alternative markets for their produce, such as ice cream or specialist cheese manufacture.

One move under consideration is to raise the production threshold for qualification.

At present it is limited to those producing fewer than 200,000 litres a year, the idea being that compensation payments would be particularly attractive to part-time farmers, or to those whose main business was in crops or other livestock, but who kept a small dairy herd.

Apart from the uncertainty about how much spare quota will eventually be available for redistribution, applications for hardship concessions are taking longer to process than expected, and the Dairy Produce Quota Tribunal is not expected to complete its hearings until sometime in the new year.

## BBC may go £7m over TV budget

BBC Television will overshoot its budget by £7m, if spending continues at present levels, the corporation admitted yesterday.

But a spokesman denied that the BBC faced a financial crisis, or that drastic cuts had been ordered. Programme managers had been asked to find savings, but no decisions had yet been made.

The threatened overspending was discovered after a routine computer check. The £7m would represent 2 per cent of BBC Television's annual budget of £325m.

BBC services most likely to suffer from cuts are expected to be news and current affairs foreign coverage.

In the long term, it is believed spending restrictions will lead to fewer films made for the cinema being shown on television. With the growth in home video ownership they are believed to be less popular.

The corporation is expected to ask the Home Secretary shortly for the colour television licence to be raised to between £60 and £70.

BBC Television's new managing director, Mr Bill Cotton, and his controller of BBC 1, Mr Michael Grade, are believed to argue that overspending was inevitable with the budgets they inherited on taking office.

## Sect school pupils 'regularly beaten'

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

Girls and boys at a school in east London run by a religious sect are regularly beaten on the bottom with a large wooden spoon, according to a report published today.

The report, from the Society of Teachers Opposed to Physical Punishment (STOPP), is not denied by the school, Shekinah, in the London borough of Tower Hamlets. Mr Keith Dillaway, the headmaster, told *The Times* that an average of two children a week are spanked.

STOPP describes how two children, one of whom had cerebral palsy, were forced to lower their trousers before being spanked.

Dr Tony Dale, the previous head who administered the punishments, does not deny them. But he says that Mrs Jeanette Roberts, the foster mother of the two children, had signed a form, with mist other parents, agreeing with the

## Massenet opera held over

The Royal Opera's new production of Massenet's *Manon*, scheduled for the new year, has been postponed until the summer of 1987 because of insufficient funds to present all eight new productions announced for the current season.

The Royal Opera House, which had given a warning about such a possibility, said financial difficulties surrounding the production have been aggravated by the illness of Marco Arturo Marelli, the producer and designer. The Visconti production of Verdi's *La Traviata* will be performed instead.

## Winter halt to work on Roman wreck

Dr Margaret Rule, the marine archaeologist who for the past fortnight has been working with a team of divers in Guernsey to recover the remains of a Roman sailing vessel, has decided to leave further excavations until next April. She said before returning to Portsmouth yesterday that weather patterns were too dangerous to risk going on exposing the sunken vessel, about a third of which lies on the bed of St Peter Port Harbour.

On Friday her team brought ashore the first timbers, large sections of deck from amidships

that has lain submerged since the second century AD.

Dr Rule said that the wreck was unique; it predated by a thousand years any structural remains of a vessel previously found in British waters. "Fellow archaeologists who have examined the site seem to think that it is the most important wreck today in Europe."

Samples of the ship's cargo of pitch, tiles, and grain have been recovered, as well as domestic pottery used by the crew. Charred timber indicates that a fire broke out on board and the spread of molten pitch was a

factor that led to the vessel's remarkable state of preservation.

About twenty Guernsey divers, with five United Kingdom divers who previously took part in the raising of the Mary Rose, worked in shifts from 7am until 7pm each day to excavate the Roman trading ship. The team included Mr Richard Keen, a local professional diver who discovered the wreck.

The propeller wash from Sealink ferries and other shipping passing overhead, which originally exposed the wreck, has also eroded it.

## Eccentric spinster killed

A murder hunt was launched yesterday after an eccentric reclusive spinster was found suffocated in her one-room bedsitter in Exeter.

Miss Eunice Flashman, aged 78, who copied the dress style of the pop personality Boy George,

had a plastic bag over her head. She had been badly beaten first.

Miss Flashman, who had lived in the room in Monks Road for eight years, had not been seen since Thursday. The police believe the killer lived near by.

## Blind children join the computer age

Blind children will be able to use computers as efficiently as their sighted contemporaries, thanks to an invention of Dr Bernard Chapman, of Bristol University's Department of Education.

The machine, the size of a shoebox, linked to a computer, produces a braille "print-out" on a continuous plastic tape.

At home the machine allows the blind to read short programmes, use the computer as a word processor and "read" teletext transmissions such as Ceefax and Oracle. It is undergoing trials in schools for the blind in Bristol and Bridgend, South Wales, and will be produced commercially in the new year. The machine allows users to search for and "read" computer-stored material.

## Loneliness is just one problem

And it is a fairly common problem for seafarers away from home for months at a time. But it is only one of the troubles that people living in us. As a Christian society working among seafarers we are asked for all kinds of help - spiritual, emotional, social and practical. And we are there, ready to give all the help we can, in all parts of the world.

To give this help we depend entirely upon voluntary contributions. Please help us to continue the Anglican Church's ministry to seafarers by a legacy, or please send whatever you can to The Missions to Seamen, Freeport, London, EC4A 4EP.

The Missions to Seamen, St Michael Paternoster Royal, College Hill, London EC4R 2RL.

# Pensions and child benefits at your post office.

The industrial dispute at the DHSS continues. This has created much more work at post office counters and therefore longer queues - particularly on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Despite these problems, we believe it is important to ensure that the elderly and parents of young children should continue to receive their money.

We have introduced emergency payment arrangements which will continue. These are now being extended to include, when they become due:

- \* Payment of pensions and allowances at new rates.
- \* The £10 Christmas bonus to pensioners.
- \* Christmas/New Year early payments.

Please remember, on Tuesdays and Thursdays there are less queues in the afternoon.

Help us to help you by avoiding peak times where you can.





## British Telecom sale:1

# Cash to flow from building societies as up to 2m prepare to buy shares

Building societies are about to lose a lot of money during the next few days as up to an estimated two million people buy shares in British Telecom in the biggest sale of public assets so far. Within two weeks the number of people in Britain owning shares will probably have more than doubled.

In the past few months building societies and banks have been awash with money as investors built up their savings to buy British Telecom shares. That money is about to move on.

The Government has gone to considerable lengths to make the shares as attractive as possible to the public, particularly to those who have not owned shares before and know nothing about the stock market.

Although ministers have emphasized their ideological commitment to the concept of wider share ownership, it would be a mistake to conclude that that is the only motive for the generous concessions offered to those investing just a few hundred or few thousands pounds.

The British Telecom share sale, at £3.900m the largest issue of its kind by a factor of nearly eight, is such a huge exercise that the Government's merchant bank advisers concluded at an early stage that the non-shareholding public's savings were essential if they were to avoid the risk of a flop.

The same kind of thinking lay behind the more controversial decision to reserve a chunk of the shares, about 14 per cent of those on offer, for foreign investors in the United States, Canada, and Japan. The tactics appear to have been borne out wholly by events.

Demand from the public and from foreign investors has grown so rapidly in the past few weeks that Government has

The world's biggest share sale is launched formally tomorrow when prospectuses offering shares in British Telecom are published in national newspapers and distributed to more than five million homes. In the first of a three-part series, JONATHAN DAVIS looks at the Government's campaign to use its latest privatization exercise as a springboard for wider share ownership in Britain.

been able to extract a much better price from the big City investment institutions than looked likely earlier this summer.

Every penny extra on the sale price raises an extra £30m for the Treasury, and some estimates are that the Government has guaranteed itself up to £200m as a result of the enthusiasm for BT shares outside the City.

Even so, the scale of the response from the public will probably exceed comfortably the original expectations of ministers and officials. Market research carried out for the government shows that up to two million people are likely to apply for shares.

Prospectuses and application

How the investor will 200 shares, cost £380, terms	price	offer	comment
Nov 28, 1984	100	100	first payment
June 24, 1985	100	100	second payment
June 24, 1985	100	100	third payment
August 1, 1985	100	100	final payment
April 1, 1986	100	100	final payment
Sept. 1, 1986	100	100	final payment
Sept. 1, 1987	100	100	final payment
Nov. 1, 1987	100	100	final payment

\* qualifying date, vouchers sent out six weeks before the first payment.  
 @ forecast minimum bid.  
 All dividends after deduction of basic rate tax.

forms are published tomorrow, and applications have to be in by 10am on November 28.

If British Telecom does end up with two million shareholders, it will mean that the Government will easily have achieved its target of "a quantum leap" in share ownership. At the moment a total of 1.8 million people are estimated to own shares, of which a third acquired their holdings through employee share schemes organized by their companies.

So long British Telecom keeps its army of shareholders is another matter. The number of shareholders in previous denationalized companies such as Britoil and British Aerospace fell dramatically in the months after their flotation.

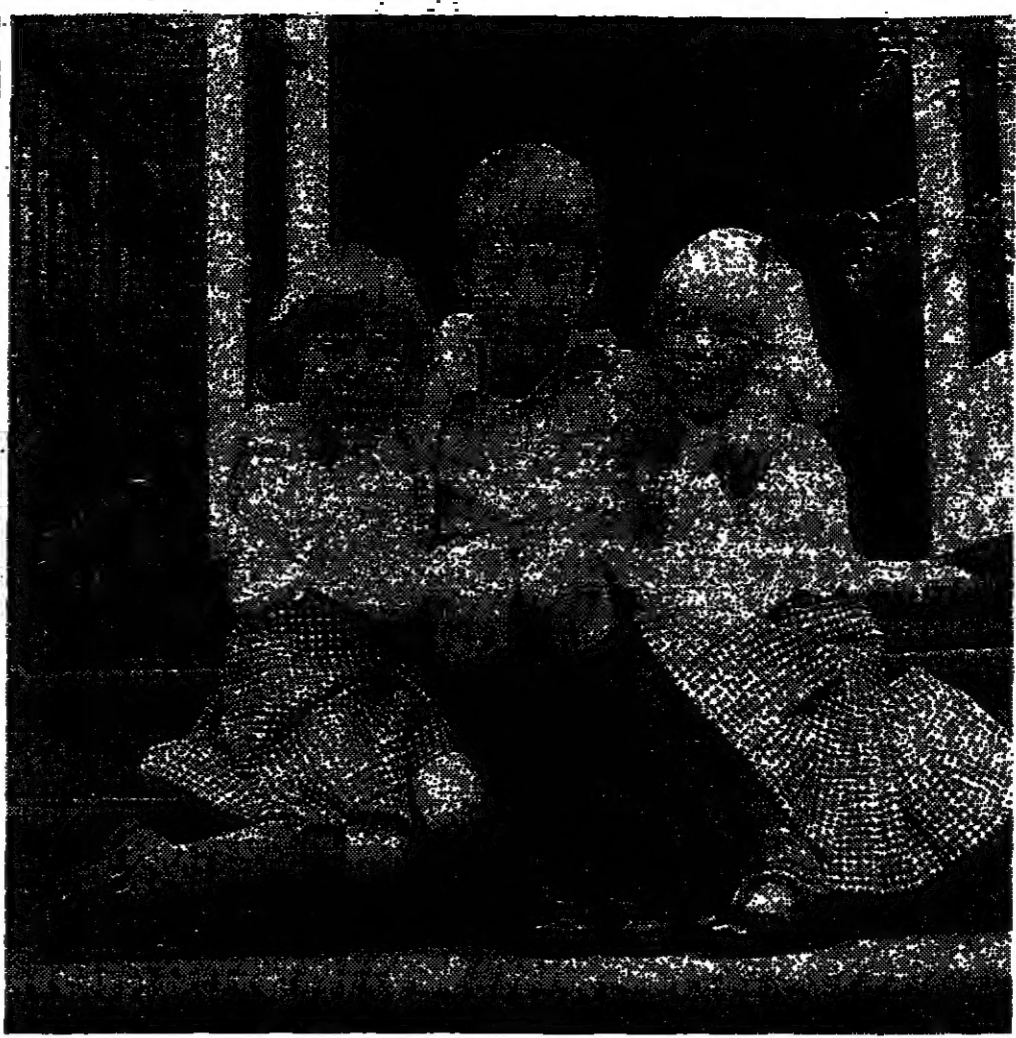
A substantial proportion can be expected to sell their BT shares in the next two years, especially if, as the stock market is already predicting, the shares immediately start to rise after dealings start on December 3. Initial estimates are that the 130p shares will start changing hands at between 140p to 150p.

The Government has deliberately designed incentives to encourage shareholders to keep their shares.

There are four main benefits on offer: payment by instalments; free telephone vouchers; free bonus shares for long-term shareholders; and special cut-price dealing rates for those who want to buy or sell BT shares.

To be sure of attracting a response from the public, the Government has tried to ensure that the return BT shares give the smallest investor, those applying for 200 of 400 shares, is at least comparable with that offered by the building societies. Because shares can rise and fall, however, BT shares are not as secure an investment as building society accounts.

Tomorrow: Marketing BT



Family photograph: Lord Linley (right) is following in the footsteps of his father, Lord Snowdon, as a royal photographer with this portrait released today of the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester's children taken at Kensington Palace. (From left) Lady Rose Windsor, aged four; Lord Ulster, aged 10; and Lady Davina Windsor, who is seven today.

## Pooch footpath cash plea

Hatfield Parish Council, East Sussex, is to ask Methuen, publisher of Pooch Bear books, to contribute towards repairs to the wooden bridge leading to the public footpath made famous by A. A. Milne's stories. The council says the bridge-

## £500,000 appeal to save piano museum

An appeal is being launched in Twickenham today for £500,000 to deep in Britain an unusual collection of musical instruments.

The collection, which is owned by a charitable trust, is locked up in St George's Church, High Street, Brentford, west London.

Mr Michael Ryder, chairman of the museum trustees, says the church, which has long been in need of maintenance, is so decayed and vandalized that the instruments cannot stay there much longer.

The collection includes reproducing pianos and there is also an early piano-organ for the silent screen, a precursor of the theatre organ, and a three-manual twelve rank-Wurlitzer organ. The total value of the instruments is considered well over £500,000.

Americans are interested in the museum collection and a few items have been sold to provide essential funds.

## Ministers to press ahead with fluoride in water scheme

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

The Government is to press ahead with legislation to empower water authorities to add fluoride to water supplies, in spite of dropping the announcement of the Bill from the Queen's Speech.

has concluded that the addition of fluoride carries no additional cancer risk.

The study, chaired by Professor George Knox, Professor of Social Medicine at Birmingham University, reviewed studies of cancer rates in areas with naturally fluoridated water, areas where fluoride has been added, and in areas where water is not fluoridated.

The Government's failure to announce the legislation came after Japanese reports that in laboratory experiments fluoride damaged the genetic material of

cells. That study has been referred to the Medical Research Council for assessment. British scientists, however, say the Japanese work involved levels of fluoride many times higher than would result from adding about one part a million of fluoride to unfluoridated water.

Plans to legislate were announced by Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, last year after a Scottish court ruled that Strathclyde Regional Council had no power to add fluoride to the water supply.

The ruling is not binding outside Scotland, but ministers decided to legislate to ensure that water authorities, some of whom already add fluoride, have the power to do so.

## 10,000 dog attacks on farm stock

More than 10,000 farm animals are attacked by dogs each year and only one in three of the attacked animals survives, the National Farmers' Union said yesterday.

Figures show that 3,000 sheep were killed or seriously injured in England and Wales last year, as well as cattle, poultry, pigs, goats and farmed deer.

Mr Fred Elliot, chairman of the NFU's parliamentary committee, said: "It is estimated that 50 per cent of the livestock-worrying incidents go unreported, so the scale of the problem could be far greater."

"On top of this, no reliable estimate can be made of the number of offspring lost by animals aborting following these attacks by dogs."

"For several months we have been waiting for the Department of the Environment to publish proposals on handing over responsibility for dog licensing to district councils, to which we would be opposed."

"We recognize the absurdity of the 37 p.p dog licence which raises £1m but which costs about £4m to collect. We believe that a uniform, country-wide increase in the present nationally-administered fee, perhaps in stages to avoid hardship and risk the owners abandoning their dogs, is the obvious solution."

"A national licence fee at a sensible level would enable the Government to allocate resources to councils to appoint dog wardens who would not only collect strays, but help educate dog owners to higher standards of care and control and hopefully lead to fewer fatalities on the farm."

## Albinos can help eye researchers

Scientists are appealing to albinos to help research into bad eyesight, because they tend to have impaired vision.

Researchers at Manchester University Institute of Science and Technology are being hampered by a shortage of suitable volunteers, according to Dr Richard Abadi.

The two most common difficulties experienced by albinos, of whom there are about 2,000 in Britain, were involuntary eyeball movement, producing blurred images, and above average and uncomfortable sensitivity to high levels of light, he said.

"We are especially interested in babies under six months whom we would like to fit with tinted contact lenses."

## Approval sought to demolish pier

The Department of the Environment has been asked to approve the demolition of the Victorian pier at Skegness, Lincolnshire, which was badly damaged by a storm in January, 1978 and has so far cost £500,000 in repairs.

Local councillors have raised no objection to its being pulled down but the pier, which was built in 1881, is a listed structure and government approval is needed.

## Rush for jobs

A thousand people have applied for 12 vacancies in Humberside Fire Brigade. Unemployment in the area where the vacancies exist is 15 per cent.

## Sale room

## Impressionist follower in top league

An American collection of paintings, ceramics and furniture from the estate of Pauline Cave, daughter of Lady Baillie, the last private owner of Leeds Castle, Kent, was sold in New York by Sotheby's on Friday for \$3,166,327 (£2,493,060). Impressionist follower, Gustave

Caillebotte, in the top league. His "Femme à sa toilette", a charming study of a girl fastening her bustle painted in about 1873, went to an anonymous bidder at \$605,000 or £484,000 (est \$200-300,000) a painting of a man in a type of kayak to which Caillebotte's

signature had been added by Renoir was bought by Norton Simon at \$220,000 or £176,000 (est \$150-200,000).

An equally pleasing pastel by Edouard Vuillard of Madame Laroche in a cluttered interior sold for \$297,000 or £237,600 (est \$200-250,000).

# The gas people-investing in tomorrow's world today

The fact that gas is such good value makes it today's most popular fuel in British homes—and a powerful and growing force in industry, too.

In fact, gas already supplies over a third of all the heat used by British industry.

As this proportion grows, the nation will benefit increasingly from the investment the gas people continue to make on behalf of their customers in developing and encouraging more efficient ways to use this premium fuel.

## NEW PROCESS PUTS WASTE HEAT TO WORK

All high-temperature industrial processes produce waste heat.

For instance, in some forging furnaces over 70 per cent of the heat is wasted.

So the gas people have developed ways of putting this waste heat to use—notably by employing it to preheat the air in which the gas will burn, or to heat materials to be worked before they enter the furnace.

In this way, reduced fuel demands can create very valuable savings—40 per cent or more in many cases.

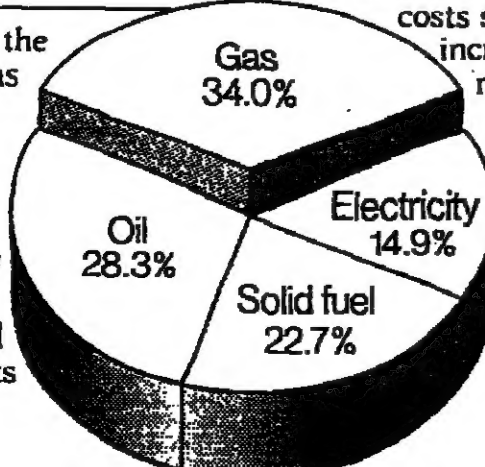
The latest and most efficient application of this principle is a regenerative ceramic burner which offers even greater fuel savings, since it is capable of using virtually all the heat that would otherwise be wasted.

## THE COMPETITION EVERYBODY WINS

Eight years ago, to encourage the efficient use of energy, British Gas introduced their Gas Energy Management awards.

They recognised significant contributions to energy conservation in industry, commerce and public administration.

Since then the cumulative annual savings made by all the entrants



(Shares of industrial fuel market 1983)

amount to over 100 million therms, enough gas for a fair-sized city. This year's winners will be announced on November 28th—but, in this competition, every entrant is a winner—and the nation wins, too.

## MORE INDUSTRIES TURN TO GAS

According to provisional Government figures for UK energy consumption in 1983, gas increased its share of the industrial market, even though industrial gas consumption fell by 0.3 per cent.

But industry still spent over £1,300 million on gas.

So it is good news, for gas customers, and industry's, that businessmen are making more efficient use of gas.

In industry and commerce, the emphasis today is on the more efficient use of fuel and power for greater profit.

British Gas are at the forefront of this trend, through their multi-million pound R and D programme and the technical consultancy services they provide to industrial and commercial customers. But such investment in tomorrow is only possible because the profits British Gas creates today are all ploughed back into the business.

New developments in the more efficient use of gas not only provide obvious benefits in the form of fuel costs savings for gas customers, but also bring increased opportunities for employment—by making British industry more efficient.

They provide export opportunities and much business in home markets for those companies which are collaborating with British Gas in the development and introduction of the new technologies. So investment by the gas people on behalf of their customers is paying off in a whole variety of ways—to the nation's benefit.

Britain's got a wonderfuel future!

Gas

When you're in town, staying with friends can make all the difference.



So, just imagine a new, exclusive London hotel where guests are invited to feel at home. Where attentive, helpful staff pride themselves on offering a warm welcome.

And going out of their way to look after you at every opportunity.

To you, it can make the difference between having a name rather than just a room number.

Indeed, the 90 bedroom Belgravia-Sheraton has a unique, friendly hotel atmosphere.

And we believe that's what makes the difference. So, next time you are in town make sure you book

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## Chirac brings in young lieutenant to give party a brighter image

From Diana Geddes, Grenoble

The unexpected resignation at the weekend of M Bernard Pons, Secretary-General of the Gaullist RPR party, and his replacement by M Jacques Toubon, aged 43, the dynamic deputy for the thirteenth arrondissement in Paris, marks an important change in the party's tactics and image in the run-up to the 1986 parliamentary elections.

For the past few months, the so-called "Young Turks" in the RPR, the up-and-coming deputies in the 30-45 age group, such as M Michel Nègre of Lyons, M Philippe Ségura of the Vosges, have been openly advocating a rejuvenation and modernization of the party. They consider it to have been dominated too long by the Gaullist "old guard", such as M Maurice Couve de Murville, M Pierre Messmer, M Michel Debré, and M Jacques Kossiusko-Morizet.

They argue that the party should not sit back and simply rely on the electorate's disin-

clination with the Socialists to sweep the right into power in 1986. It needs new policies, fresh faces, a younger, brighter image, particularly after the appointment of M Laurent Fabius, at 38 the nation's youngest Prime Minister for more than a century.

M Pons, aged 58, Secretary-General of the party for the past five years, was strongly associated with the old guard. A few months ago he accused the Young Turks of being "traitors and collaborators", and it looked as though the young dissidents were going to be slapped down.

But M Jacques Chirac, the RPR leader, who at the age of 51 bridges the two generations, has evidently decided to try to placate them by appointing one of their own age group to the important post of secretary-general, while at the same time ensuring that he keeps the party firmly under his personal control. M Toubon is one of M Chirac's loyal right-hand men.

M Toubon cannot properly be described as a Young Turk; he follows too devotedly in his master's footsteps for that. But he is bright, he is young and he has new ideas.

M Chirac announced M Toubon's appointment yesterday at the end of the RPR's two-day national congress in Grenoble.

It was the party's last biennial congress before the parliamentary elections, and there was a mood of excited buoyancy among the 30,000 party faithful who flocked to listen to their adored party leader. Few doubt that the RPR will form the largest single party in the new Parliament.

But despite its optimism and its unity M Chirac was re-elected with 97 per cent of the vote, behind its leader and despite the adoption of a new party programme entitled "Free and Responsible" the RPR still seems to be a party in search of an image and a coherent set of policies.

## Nigeria denies coup plot and killings

By Kenneth Mackenzie

A spokesman for the Nigerian Government yesterday denied an *Observer* report that 42 officers and men had been executed for plotting to assassinate the military leadership that came to power in January.

Malam Wada Maida, spokesman for the Nigerian leader, General Muhammadu Buhari, told *The Times* by telephone from Lagos: "There have been no executions, no arrests, no

plot. The story is false in every detail."

The *Observer* said the executions were carried out by firing squad in "an underground firing range at the Ikeja Cantonment, 15 miles north of Lagos".

Malam Maida said: "There is no underground firing range at Ikeja."

It was absurd to think that in Nigeria the execution of so

many people, including senior officers, could be kept secret. "Officers are public figures. They would be missed from their posts. Their families would speak."

Malam Maida also said the *Observer* was wrong in saying the Independence Day Parade on October 1 was suddenly cancelled after several weeks of rehearsal. "There was no rehearsal whatever."



March-past: Part of the crowd in the Castellana, Madrid's main thoroughfare.

## Rally jams Madrid in protest over education reforms

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

Hundreds of thousands of parents, accompanied by their children, demonstrated yesterday against the Spanish Government's educational reform in the biggest street protest against the Socialists since they took office two years ago.

The crowds, which took almost three hours to march down the Castellana, Madrid's main thoroughfare, rivalled the estimated one million who turned out for the Pope in November 1982.

Recordings of the Pope's words then, demanding respect for Roman Catholic parents' right to give their children an education according to their consciences, were played at yesterday's demonstration.

The demonstration was organized under the slogan "freedom of education for everyone" by parents' groups which chartered buses, aircraft and trains from all over the country. It ended with a call to Señor Felipe González, the Prime Minister, to negotiate a new "schools pact" with all the parties involved in education.

This would mean disregarding the Socialists' "right to education" law, which has been passed by Parliament, but has not come into effect because the Opposition has challenged it in the Constitutional Court.

The demonstration, in which Señor Manuel Fraga, the right-wing opposition leader, marched, took place even though a decision by the court is thought to be imminent.

The march was closely modelled on June's protest in Paris against the French Government's education Bill,

and was intended to put similar pressure on the González government.

The dispute in Spain is not about the right of parents, guaranteed under the 1978 constitution, to give their children an education of their choice or of the right to run fee-paying schools. It is over the power to control the 107,000m pesetas (about £500m) the state is paying this year in subsidies to the private sector, chiefly church-run schools.

The subsidies, amounting in some cases to 100 per cent of the church schools' costs, will be closely controlled under the new law. Backing the parents' organizations are the bishops and the owners of private schools, who also object to the fact that the law would give parents and teachers more say in running the schools.

Many parents believe subsidized church-run schools provide a better education than state schools. Contented parents, largely in urban areas, where most of the church schools are, naturally do not want things changed.

Señor José María Maravall, the Education Minister, insists that public funding must first establish an adequate state system and end decades of neglect in rural areas.

The dispute risks reopening old divisions. Left-wing teachers' organizations are demanding that the Government should stand up now to the church, while a group of Roman Catholic intellectuals and the head of Spain's evangelical church protested yesterday at what they called the manipulation of parents in the name of religion.

### European notebook

## An end to the night of the long knives

One of the more viciously bloody EEC traditions - the night of the long knives - looks as though it will be cancelled as a result of a new style of Commission presidency introduced by M Jacques Delors.

Usually this unpleasant event takes place at the very start of the new Commission's four-year term, when all 14 members retire together to fight over the available portfolios. It is a particularly undignified and inappropriate method of sorting out who is to rule over which Community policy.

M Delors has decided to try to achieve by diplomacy what in the past has often been achieved by bloodletting. Since he was nominated to take over, he has been on a particularly intensive tour of the Community, meeting government leaders as well as the people who will make up his team.

He then means to call his Commission together for a first meeting, soon after the Dublin European summit, to try to agree on who does what. He believes that this will not only stop the bloodletting. But will mean that the handover between the old and the new can be much smoother.

His careful diplomacy, however, is not all running as smoothly as he might like. Notably, he has found that Britain and West Germany, both of which have two Commissioners, are essentially after the same two portfolios for their nominees.

They both want one of their men to run what is known as "The Internal Market" and the other to have responsibility for environment and transport.

The internal market portfolio is currently held by Herr Karl-Heinz Narjes, the West German Commissioner, who is one of only three of the existing Commission certain to remain. He would like to keep the job.

The British Government is

particularly keen to pick up this responsibility because it sees it as the most important subject for the immediate future. Essentially, the man in charge will have the job of trying to break down the internal barriers which have prevented the EEC from becoming a real common market. Now that the worst of the budget argument appears to be over, Britain would like Lord Cockfield, the Conservative nominee, to do the job.

Mr Stanley Clinton Davis, the Labour nominee, is known to have wanted the job of development, but with the very high profile this position now has it is unlikely to go to such a junior member. Ever since the Community was formed the Development Commissioner has been French, a tradition M Delors believes he must end by choosing Signor Lorenzo Natali, the Italian, who is staying on and who so far has been in charge of enlargement.

Mr Davis has apparently been canvassed about taking over the transport portfolio. Linked with transport would be environment, for a whole range of reasons from lead in petrol to high speed trains.

Hot favourite for the all-important agriculture job is the Dutchman, Mr Frans Andriessen, who has been coldly competent in the present Commission running the competition policy.

There will probably be at least two portfolios created by the break-up of the huge industrial complex created by Viscount Etienne Davignon, who sadly has to leave to make way for a Flemish Belgian in the shape of the Finance Minister, Mr Willy De Clerq.

One possible candidate to take over the industry job is M Claude Cheysson, who is hotly tipped to return to Brussels next year as the second French Commissioner.

Ian Murray

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## Bank of Scotland Home Loan Rate

Bank of Scotland announces that with effect from 30th November 1984 Bank of Scotland Home Loan Rate will be decreased from 12.75% to 11.75% per annum.

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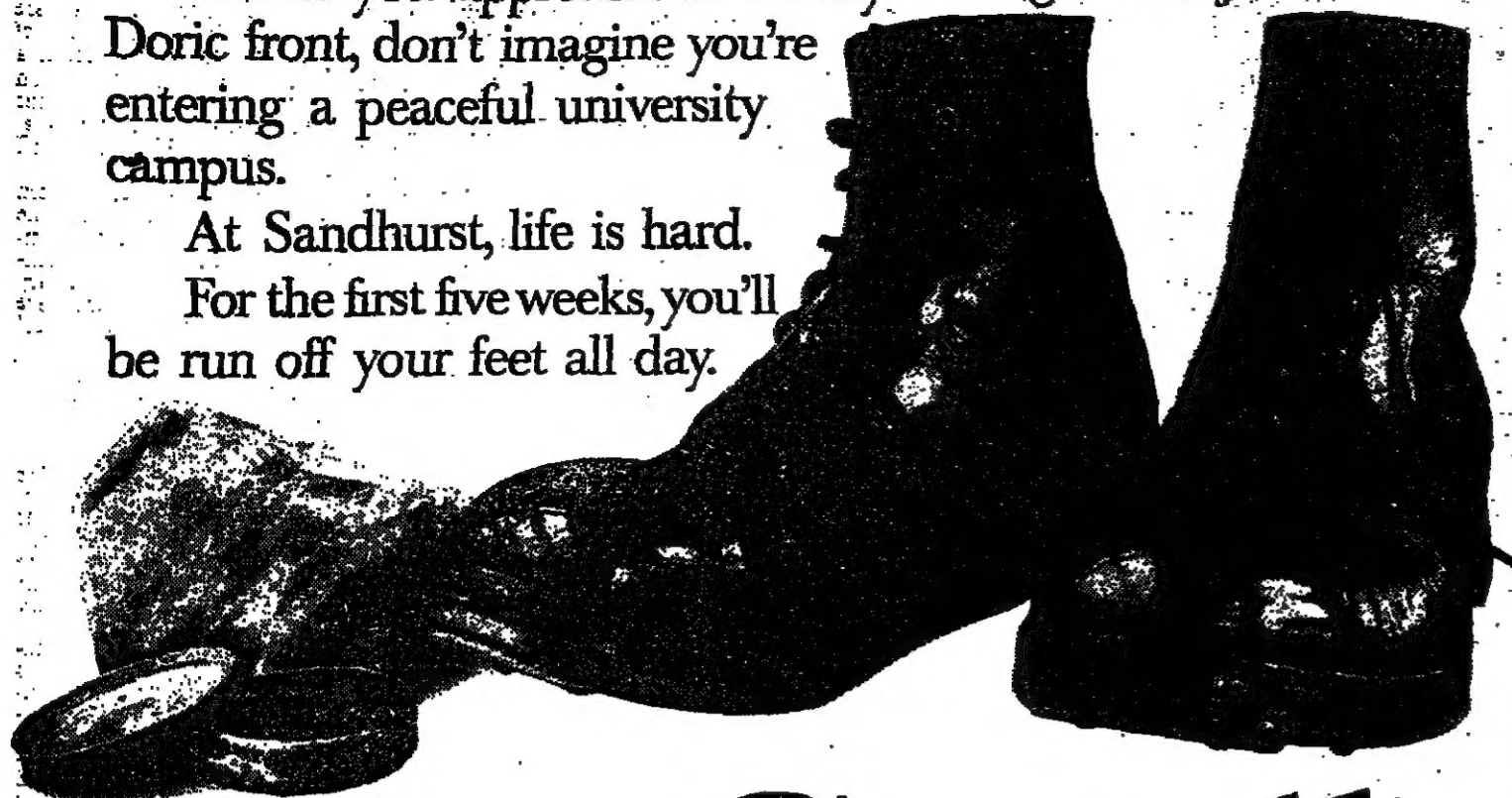
But as you approach its stately Doric front, don't imagine you're entering a peaceful university campus.

At Sandhurst, life is hard.

For the first five weeks, you'll be run off your feet all day.

physical limits.

And when you withdraw to the privacy of your own room, you will have studying to do on a wide range of subjects.



And you'll spend half the night boning up for the following day.

From the start, your staff sergeant will call you "sir." But that won't stop

# Sandhurst. It's nice when it stops.

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If you think you can stay the course, write to Major John Floyd, Army Officer Entry, Department T23, Empress State Building, Lillie Road, London SW6 1TR.

Tell him your date of birth, your school, university, polytechnic or college of higher education and the qualifications you have or expect.

In return, we'll tell you more about getting into Sandhurst and the opportunities that lie beyond.



him telling you what a horrible little man you are, "sir!"

There are time-proven reasons why you have to put up with this sort of treatment.

To impose discipline, you must be able to take it yourself.

And in the stress of action, you'll need to obey orders instantly as well as hand them out. (Bear in mind that you could be leading men in dangerous situations a few weeks after you're commissioned.)

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Sandhurst is, after all, an academy. And now more than ever an officer needs a well-furnished brain. Weapons systems are complex, and your soldiers will need intelligent management.

At all stages, you'll be encouraged to develop the potential for leadership which we found in you at the Regular Commissions Board.

And because our officer cadets are so carefully chosen, the failure rate is low.

Life at Sandhurst is by no means all pain.

You'll make life-long friendships.



## Army Officer

To The Hon  
FREEP  
I enclose my  
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Address  
Help



## US keeps up pressure on Managua as more Russian ships arrive

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

A US guided missile cruiser is reportedly steaming off the Nicaraguan coast while the Reagan Administration persists in a war of words against the Sandinista Government in Managua.

The muddled and embarrassing affair of the apparently non-existent MiG fighter planes supposedly being supplied by the Soviet Union has clearly not lessened the Administration's determination to keep up the psychological pressure.

Mr Caspar Weinberger, the US Defence Secretary, conceded in a weekend interview that he had no specific evidence that the Nicaraguans were arming themselves to invade one of their neighbours. But the weapons obtained by the Sandinista Government "can kill an awful lot of people and they are way beyond what is required for the defence of a country the size and location of Nicaragua".

The Associated Press news agency reported from Washington on Saturday that the guided missile cruiser, the *Stanley*, replaced a frigate off the coast of Nicaragua on Wednesday and was steaming in international waters "on intelligence gathering duty". It said the US Navy had stationed ships off the

Nicaraguan coast to monitor radio traffic and perform other types of intelligence gathering work since May, 1982.

Quoting an intelligence source, AP said the aircraft carrier *Nimitz* was due to arrive in the Caribbean. The source said the ship was on exercises and had nothing to do with Central America.

Father Miguel D'Escoto, the Nicaraguan Foreign Minister, said in a satellite television interview with CBS that the United States had been waging war against Nicaragua for almost four years, resulting in thousands of deaths and "all kinds of destruction".

In the past few days, he said, the Administration had been involved in a campaign to contaminate the American public with the official hysteria over Nicaragua. Also, they are involved in all kinds of stepped-up exercises in Honduras and in different parts of the Caribbean.

"...this leads us to believe that they have... come to the conclusion that they must look for the precise moment for the opportunity to do what Mr Reagan has always wanted to do, which is to topple the

Government of Nicaragua and reverse our popular revolution."

● **MANAGUA:** Three Soviet cargo ships loaded with food and medical supplies docked in Nicaragua's Pacific port of Corinto over the weekend, port officials said. (Reuters reports).

They said the cargoes included newsprint and construction machinery, but there were no arms or munitions on any of the vessels.

US intelligence sources in Washington said at least five Soviet block ships were heading for Nicaragua with munitions.

● **BRASILIA:** The Organization of American states ended its annual assembly by approving a resolution backing the efforts of the Contadora Group to find a peaceful solution to conflicts in Central America.

● **VISAS REFUSED:** The United States has denied visas to four Salvadoran women human rights workers who were invited to Washington to receive an award from the Robert Kennedy Memorial Foundation. The State Department said they were banned for "terrorist activities" (our Washington Correspondent writes).

## Muldoon 'under pressure to stay'

From W P Reeves, Wellington

Hats are in the ring for the leadership of the New Zealand National Party but the incumbent, Sir Robert Muldoon, the former Prime Minister, shows an increasing hesitation to go.

Sir Robert's stock fell dramatically within the party when his economic unorthodoxies were blamed for its defeat by Labour in the snap election in July. Immediate calls were made for his head but the party's MPs, who choose the leader, settled on a formula to bring the leadership question up early in the new year when it was understood Sir Robert would be unlikely to offer himself. Now there is renewed pressure to have the issue settled before Christmas.

Sir Robert admits that a vote today could go against him but he believes more support will be forthcoming once MPs have a chance to judge the importance of his contribution as Leader of the Opposition.

Four challenges for the leadership he has exercised for 10 years have been lodged, all from members of his previous Cabinet. The contenders are Mr Jim McLay, aged 39, who is the deputy leader; Mr Jim Bolger, 49; Mr Bill Birch, 50; and Mr George Gair, 58.

Sir Robert has been particularly scathing toward Mr Gair, whom he accuses of having been a chief plotter against him in a failed coup in 1980. Others he sees as lacking in experience. Mr McLay, the front-runner, he points out, has never before served in opposition.

While he has not declared his intentions unequivocally, Sir Robert claims a groundswell of opinion wants him to stay and obliges him to reconsider whether he should offer himself again to lead. He invokes the populist magic of "Rob's mob", which worked so well for him in the past to insist that there are "thousands and thousands" anxious for him to remain as



Party strength: Mr Jim McLay (top), Mr George Gair (left), and Mr Jim Bolger, contenders for the leadership; and Mrs Sue Wood, the party president.

leader, seeing him as the person best suited to get Labour out of office after one three-year term. He is unrepentant about past performances. He is accused within the party of abandoning the cardinal private enterprise principle in favour of interventionist policies, but he describes those calling for a free market as economic troglodytes.

The row about his future has become so public and acrimonious that Mrs Sue Wood, the party president, has appealed for an end to personal assaults.

## Malta bomb blasts mar start of school pact

From Our Correspondent, Valetta

Two bombs exploded in Malta on the weekend on the eve of today's planned opening of all church schools for the first time since a bitter argument erupted over their future.

A powerful bomb caused extensive damage to the Italian Embassy at Floriana, about 100 metres from the British High Commission, where last month an explosion destroyed a car and damaged the commission offices. The second bomb exploded a few hours later on the doorstep of the Nationalist Party club in Birkirkara, causing substantial damage.

A statement by the Prime Minister's office later condemned all bomb attacks - there have been 15 in the past nine weeks - and in particular the attack on the Italian Embassy. The Cabinet caused for public cooperation with the police to catch those responsible.

Agreement on the church schools issue was reached last week between the Socialist Government and the Church, after months of tension which at times appeared to be on the brink of serious civil disturbance.

As a result of the agreement the government issued operating licences to eight of the schools - which had been deprived of them after they refused to accept a list of conditions which would have made them virtually state controlled.

The conditions of the present licences are: tuition is to be free (the church has accepted this only for the current school year); the ecclesiastical authorities are to do their best to reach agreement on a common entrance examination for all secondary schools in a way that does not discriminate between social classes; in other respects the conditions governing church schools last year will continue to apply.

## Soviet subs looking for Atlantis get near Rock

From Our Correspondent, Valetta

Soviet midget submarines which crawl along the seabed are operating off Gibraltar, according to the authoritative Geneva-based *International Defence Review*.

The Russians say they are searching for the lost city of Atlantis. Earlier this month a Soviet research expedition claimed discovery of a circus arena, staircases and arches at 300ft, about 300 miles off Portugal.

There are several western military installations in the area. The magazine commented: "Doubtless the commanders of western military installations in the vicinity are unaware of their archaeological interest."

## Mengele quest by American

New York (AP) - The district attorney for Brooklyn, Ms Elizabeth Holtzman, leaves for Paraguay on Wednesday with Frau Beate Klarsfeld, the noted Nazi hunter, to seek the arrest and extradition of Dr Joseph Mengele.

Dr Mengele, aged 73, nicknamed "Angel of Death" is accused of performing thousands of fatal medical experiments on Jews and other prisoners at Auschwitz. Paraguay has been unable to find him since issuing an arrest warrant in 1979.

## Deadly cargo

Belgrade (AP) - An Italian cargo ship, the *Brigitta Montanara*, carrying a shipment of liquefied vinyl chloride, a toxic substance, sank in the north Adriatic off Sibenik late on Friday. A race began to recover the chemical before it contaminated the sea.

## Deadly torpedo

A new type of Soviet torpedo which homes on a target by detecting minute changes in the sea's magnetic field caused by a ship's wake, is worrying Nato.

## West Bank Palestinians split by Amman meeting

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

The 1.3 million Palestinians living under Israeli rule in the West Bank and Gaza Strip are bitterly divided in the run-up to Thursday's much delayed session of the Palestinian National Council, the Palestinians' parliament-in-exile, in Amman.

The split between supporters of Mr Yasser Arafat, the chairman of the PLO, and the Syrian-backed rebels opposed to him is believed by Arab sources to have been the cause of an explosion which wrecked the car of Mrs Raymond Tawil, a leading West Bank journalist, yesterday.

Mrs Tawil, who was in her home in Ramallah when the blast occurred outside, is known as one of the most outspoken supporters of Mr Arafat in the West Bank. She is founder of the Palestine Press Service, an organization which channels West Bank news to foreign reporters.

The attack followed mounting antagonism between the majority of West Bank leaders, who support calling the Amman meeting and a local minority which is bitterly opposed. Backers of Mrs Tawil said that if pro-Syrian elements had not mounted the attack then it was the work of Jewish extremists trying to stir up Arab divisions.

Four hundred West Bank signatures were recently gathered on a petition against the Amman meeting. At the weekend, supporters and opponents of Mr Arafat gathered at the main Palestinian university of Bir Zeit to demonstrate their views. According to a Palestinian journalist present, those backing the Amman meeting outnumbered its opponents by twenty to one. One prominent West Bank resident opposed to the meeting is Mr Bassam Shaka, the deposed mayor of Nablus who was maimed in the 1980 car bomb attack by Jewish extremists.

## Threat by Botha to 'poisonous' press

From Michael Horsby, Johannesburg

The South African State President, Mr P. W. Botha, said at the weekend that Parliament should reconsider imposing statutory controls on the press because of what he called "the sensationalism of some irresponsible papers in this country".

At a provincial by-election meeting on Saturday Mr Botha castigated journalists as "men with poisoned pens hiding behind their desks", and said the time had come to look again at the recommendations of the Steyn commission of inquiry into the mass media.

The commission recommended in 1982 the compulsory registration of all journalists on a central roll, from which they could be removed for "improper conduct" and thereby barred from exercising their profession. The proposals created a furore at home and abroad and were quietly shelved.

Mr Botha's anger was provoked by a recent spate of stories, mainly in the English-speaking press, about the allegedly inflated level of public services remuneration. Most attention focused on Mr Botha's acceptance of a "gratuity" of 303,000 rands (about £150,000) when he stepped down as Prime Minister in September and was elected State President.

Mr Botha has been in a belligerent mood recently. At the end of last week, according to reliable sources, he summoned a number of leading businessmen and begged them for putting commercial interests before patriotism.

## Palermo suicide blow to Christian Democrats

From Peter Nichols, Rome

The suicide of an eminent Christian Democrat in Palermo at the weekend is the latest of a series of blows for the country's leading party.

Signor Rosario Nicoletti, aged 53, a former regional secretary of the party threw himself from the bathroom window of his Palermo flat on Saturday afternoon. Friends say that he had been deeply disturbed by seeing his name in a recent book involving him indirectly in the Mafia murder in September 1982 of General Carlo Alberto Dalla Chiesa.

The book was written by Signor Nando Dalla Chiesa, the general's son. Signor Nicoletti's name had also been found in the diary of an alleged killer now in custody in Palermo.

His wife said that she had stopped him from shooting himself but had been unable to prevent him from throwing himself from the ninth floor of the apartment house near the seafarers where they lived.

Signor Nicoletti had been a member of the Sicilian regional assembly since 1959.

## A thank you to the readers of The Times who responded to the tragic plight of the elderly in Ethiopia

With your help over the past four months Help the Aged has been engaged in the relief of elderly victims of drought in Ethiopia and other parts of Africa. To date £250,000 has been allocated to projects in the drought affected areas of Africa. These are just a few ways in which Help the Aged has assisted:

£50,000 has been provided to the relief operations of the Christian Relief and Development Association in Ethiopia. Through the Sudan we are reaching elderly victims of the drought in areas not controlled by the Ethiopian Government.

Within Sudan £5,000 has been donated to Sudan Aid for relief of refugees from Eritrea and Tigre. £10,000 has provided famine relief supplies through Help Age Kenya in Northern Kenya. A further £15,000 through Help Age Kenya has been allocated to ongoing development projects related to the drought programme.

Through Caritas in Tanzania £15,000 has provided help for the transportation of urgently needed grain supplies. £5,000 has enabled a local group to obtain a harrow and planter so that crop growing can begin again.

£29,000 is being given to the Relief Society of Tigray in Ethiopia for the purchase of oxen, farming implements and seeds.

£20,000 has been provided to the Zimbabwe Drought Operation Committee for the relief of displaced rural elderly from Mozambique.

These and other grants have all been made possible with the help of generous readers of this newspaper. But as generous and caring as the response has been, the plight of the elderly in Ethiopia and other stricken areas is still critical.

They have to cope with the drought, famine, disease - and their age. They still desperately need your support to provide clean water, food, medical supplies and other essentials.

If you can help, please do today. Tomorrow may be too late for some.

To: The Hon. Treasurer, The Rt. Hon. Lord Maybray-King, Help the Aged, Project 40217, FREEPOST, LONDON EC1B 1BC (no stamp needed).

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## The famine in Ethiopia

# Refugees vie for food with the vultures as farm animals perish

From Thomson Prentice, Addis Ababa

The cattle at Bati are eaten by the vultures or by the famine refugees, depending on who reaches them first. The slaughter of the animals is the last desperate act of an emergency aid centre where more than 20,000 starving peasants and nomads have arrived in the past ten days.

The numbers swell by 1,000 a day, despite a daily death toll of about 60 people, mostly children, at the centre, 250 miles north-east of Addis Ababa.

There is not nearly enough food to go round, and thousands have built fragile, ragged shelters on the edge of the camp, waiting and hoping to be fed. Some die waiting.

Cattle brought by the famine victims collapse and die and become the prey of vultures, which constantly circle overhead. Others are slaughtered and their thin meat dried. This is a last resort, for the animals' principal value is as beasts of burden, not as providers of meat or milk. Without them, peasant farmers have no means of tilling their land, no investment that can be sold to buy food or crop seeds.

But after trekking as much as

90 miles, the discovery at Bati that there is not enough food has led to the policy of slaughter. Both Oxfam and the Save the Children Fund are setting up feeding stations to the north and south of Bati in the next week, to divert the thousands who still flock in. Two Australian Red Cross doctors and 40 auxiliaries are trying to cope at Bati. Another six feeding centres have been opened between Bati and the town of Dese, 40 miles to the west.

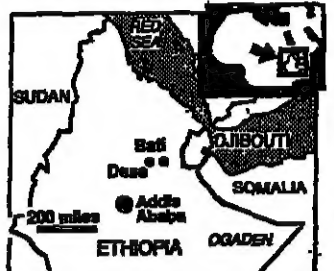
A team from the United Nations Children's Fund visited Bati on Friday. The British representative, Miss Brigit Crofton, said: "I saw babies lying on the ground, wrapped in

tin foil to retain their body heat, and being drip-fed saline and glucose."

"There is a dividing line between those who can be accepted for feeding and those who have to wait. The children are weighed and given colour tags of red, blue or green according to their state of malnutrition."

● **NAIROBI:** The Irish Republic's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Mr Jim O'Keefe, who is president of the European Community's council of development ministers at the moment, said he was confident the Community would continue to provide famine relief aid for Ethiopia. Mr O'Keefe spent the weekend seeing something of Kenya's famine situation, which, he said, had been tackled admirably, so that a potential calamity had been averted.

"Ethiopia is clearly going to need assistance for a long time to come. The 1985 Community budget will be going back to the council of ministers for a second reading the week after I return to Europe. I expect to suggest the voting of additional funds to Ethiopia in 1985."



## Campaign against Addis Ababa project

From Zoriana Pysariwsky, New York

At a time when famine and drought in Ethiopia and elsewhere in Africa continue to be critical, Britain is leading a campaign against a United Nations proposal for a \$73.5m (£56m) improvement at a conference centre in Addis Ababa, on the ground that the money could be better spent.

Recommendation for the improvement has been made already by the financial and

budgetary committee of the UN General Assembly.

The project is in response to complaints by the Economic Commission for Africa that its facilities were sub-standard and its hall too small for most meetings. Mr Alan Keyes, the American delegate, has asked rhetorically whether resources made available to the UN were intended "chiefly to build

concrete and steel monuments to the comfort and vanity of the representatives of member states, or to help the world's people build a more secure, more prosperous future?"

Sir John Thomson, the British representative, in a recent debate on the economic crisis in Africa left open the question whether the project was the "most appropriate use" of UN money.



Long march: People in ravaged Wollo province head for aid centres. They hope to trade their belongings for food.

## Britons show the way with light plane

From Our Special Correspondent, Addis Ababa

The pilot and engineer of a small British aircraft are flying home today after a remarkable 16-day role in the Ethiopian famine relief operations.

What began as a quick trip to take a ton of supplies out from Britain on behalf of the Save the Children Fund is ending with the twin-engine Beechcraft returning loaded with Ethiopian antiquities and bric-a-brac which will be auctioned by Christie's to raise more funds for the charity.

Between the two flights Mr Nigel Humphries, a former British Airways pilot and Mr John Skinner, an ex-RAF engineer, flew thousands of miles around Ethiopia delivering medicine, condensed milk

and high-protein food for starving children.

They ferried relief workers from Oxfam, Save the Children Fund and Médecins sans Frontières, not to mention the British Ambassador and an Irish bishop.

They also flew RAF officers on reconnaissance sorties to investigate possible landing sites in remote areas for the two Hercules planes which are taking part in the emergency airlift.

Mr Humphries, a partner in an Exeter aviation charter company, financed the flying costs by accepting payments from television crews who wanted to be taken to disaster areas.

The original flight from Exeter was paid for with \$4,000 raised in two days in the Exeter area from public donations after a newspaper article and a local radio station publicized his offer to fly supplies on behalf of the Save the Children Fund.

Mr Skinner, works for an aviation maintenance company in Exeter. Two men hope to be able to return to Ethiopia early next year. Mr Humphries said: "The road system is so poor that we found the aircraft was in constant demand. We became very involved, practically and emotionally, and just kept putting off our return home."

The Save the Children Fund assistant director in Ethiopia, Mr William Day, said: "As a result of their help we are investigating the possibilities of using a light plane more often in situations like this. It has opened our eyes to the advantages of getting key personnel and supplies to where they are needed very urgently and where road transport is slow and inadequate."

The two men spent the weekend buying ethnic items in Addis Ababa which Christie's have offered to auction for charity. The shopping expedition was financed with what was left from payments by the television crew.

3500 years ago the wisest man who ever lived made an observation of stunning simplicity. "There is nothing new under the sun," he said.

To be perfectly honest he should have added, "Except the price." As an example, look what's happened in the last 20 years to a few of the things it would be rather nice to look forward to.

A 5 bedroom farmhouse with a few acres in the home counties has gone from £12,000 to nearly £200,000.

An XKE Jaguar was £1,850. Its replacement, the XJS, will set you back around £20,000.

And the price of 61 Lafite has doubled 6 times from £3.50 to over £250 a bottle.

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## Delay fears over Corfu land ruling

From Mario Modiano Athens

A Greek court which was due to consider claims against British owners of property in Corfu tomorrow is expected to postpone the hearing in order to give the Government time to solve the problem by law.

The Greek Government has promised to settle the position of about 1,000 Britons who had circumvented a 1927 ban on land purchases by foreigners in Greek frontier areas, such as Corfu, by acquiring the property through Greek-based companies.

Last year the Supreme Court ruled that the ban was also valid in the case of Greek companies effectively controlled by foreign nationals. Following this ruling some former vendors in Corfu petitioned the court restitution of estates they had sold to foreigners which had since become grossly overvalued.

The two hearings due to be held tomorrow concern a one-acre property bought in 1970 and owned by Mrs Rosemary Tuckey, a widow, and her two sons, and Kouloura Beach, a development estate in which Mr Jacob Rothschild, the London banker, has an active interest.

Greek officials indicated that the delay in passing legislation to regularize the position of these British owners, had been caused by disagreements in the Cabinet.

They said these had now been ironed out, and the text of the draft law is to be tabled in Parliament "very soon". But Parliament's agenda is overloaded with the budget and five-year plan, so there is little hope of the Bill being passed before January or early February.

## Dog finds drugs cargo hidden in British ship

Boston, (AP) - Customs officials spent the weekend digging through layers of stone in the hold of the British-registered cargo ship Ramsland and finding marijuana.

"As we clear away the bottom deck of the hold we are finding more bales of marijuana," a Customs officer said.

The 213ft coastal ship was seized on Wednesday night by a Customs boarding party after it was observed following an erratic course. With the help of bulldozers and Humphrey, a drug-sniffing dog, it was searched and six 50lb bags of marijuana discovered, the Customs reported.

The six crew were then arrested on drugs smuggling charges. They were Andreas George Mallion, aged 24, acting as captain; his brother, Gary, 29; Kevin Barry Tate, 23; Wesley Mallard Simmonds, 20; Barry James Cogger, 23, and John Harrison, aged 45. All were said to be from Kent, England.

## Judge in a hurry indicts 37

From Peter Nichols Rome

An investigating judge in Trento has ruled that 37 people stand trial for involvement in international arms and drugs trafficking despite attempts to discipline him and take the case from his control.

The Supreme Court may still rule this week that the case be taken from the judges jurisdiction and his decision annulled.

The judge, Signor Carlo Palermo, indicted nine Turks, two Syrians, an Egyptian, and 25 Italians, including Rossano Brazzi, the actor. The list also includes Bekir Celenk, a Turk who has also been indicted in other proceedings of conspiracy to murder the Pope.

During his inquiry, charges were brought against the judge by two defence lawyers whom the judge had jailed for alleged unprofessional conduct.

The Supreme Court must decide this week on a request from the lawyers that the inquiry be removed from Trento. To avoid four years work being wasted the judge settled last week into his bullet-proof office in Trento with five typists and put the finishing touches to a 3,898-page report on the case indicting the 37.

## Chernenko blunts Washington optimism

From Richard Owen Moscow

President Chernenko's declaration, in an interview with American television, that he is ready for a summit meeting with President Reagan, provided "positive results" could be guaranteed, is seen by Western diplomats here as an encouraging sign.

But the Soviet leader's remark that the time is not yet ripe for a summit because of American policies seems to confirm that Washington is far more optimistic than Moscow about the chances of resumed dialogue following Mr Reagan's landslide reelection.

The interview with Marvin Kalb of NBC television, screened in the US on Friday, was published on the front page of Pravda yesterday and read out in full on the Moscow evening news. Mr Chernenko said the United States and Russia should reach agreement "in the first place" on ways of halting the arms race and stopping it spreading "to areas which have so far been free of that race."

Asked if he would agree to meet Mr Reagan within six months of the President's inauguration on January 20, Mr Chernenko said it would "not be difficult to set a date" provided there was "confidence concerning the success of a summit meeting". A summit could provide a powerful impetus for improved relations as long as it achieved clearly defined goals.

"Can it be said that the conditions are now ripe for a Soviet-American summit to yield the expected results? Frankly, I do not think so," Mr Chernenko said. There was a "dangerous fallacy" in some Western capitals - a delicate reference to Washington - that security could be guaranteed by "piling up mountains of weapons."

This never made sense in the past, and in the nuclear age it is untenable and absurd."

Mr Chernenko reiterated the issues he believed could lead to a Soviet-American dialogue - a ban on space weapons, a nuclear weapon freeze and a comprehensive ban on nuclear testing - noting that these were "the most urgent and most easily solvable questions". A start towards a more "normal relationship" could be made if Washington's professed desire for arms agreements amounted to more than just words, he said.

He praised the era of détente in the 1970s and said there was "no other rational basis" for Soviet-American relations.

The Soviet Union has expressed interest in the concept of "umbrella" talks of a range of arms issues, but has done so through diplomatic channels. Diplomats said there had been a change of tone in Soviet policy, symbolized by Mr Chernenko's message of congratulations to Mr Reagan on his reelection.

But there has been no change of substance, and public Soviet comment remains scathing, with Tass dismissing talk of a "constructive attitude" in Washington as "dishonest". America's "outrageous provocations" against Nicaragua have provided further fuel for Soviet anti-American diatribes.

"The Russians want to show the world and their allies that they too are interested in dialogue," one diplomat said. But they are still insisting that crisis and Pershing must be withdrawn first, and that America must agree to a moratorium of space weapons."

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# Gandhi assassin tells of plot to kill other Indian leaders

From Kuldip Nayar, Delhi

Satwant Singh, the surviving policeman involved in the assassination of Mrs Indira Gandhi, is reported to have told a special investigation that there was a plot to kill President Zail Singh, the Prime Minister, the Prime Minister, and members of his family.

Intelligence sources, who are issuing information freely to newspapers and news agencies, say that while Beant Singh, the other assassin, belonged to one team, other teams may be planning the assassination of other VIPs.

According to the Press Trust of India news agency, a third man, Mr Sukhdev Singh, also a member of Mrs Gandhi's security guard, was arrested soon after the assassination. Investigators have gone to the central state of Madhya Pradesh and Punjab to follow up clues gathered after the murder.

Yet another man, Mr Kair Singh, who is said to have administered the oath to the assassins is under arrest. The

Statesman, an English daily in Delhi reported that several people, including a Delhi businessman, a self-styled freedom fighter from Jammu and Kashmir and members of the police are also among those detained in connection with the murder.

In Amritsar, the Akali Dal has appealed to the Government to hand over Sikh orphan children to the Sikh community. The committee managing Sikh temples in Punjab, Haryana and Delhi. A Sikh holyman working with the party said that he was pained to learn that Christian missionaries were said to be taking orphaned children away and were "out to exploit the situation".

Mr Jivan Singh Umranangal, the Akali Dal vice-president, the only top office bearer of the party outside jail, has appealed to the Sikh high priests to decide whether they support the demand for an independent Sikh state of Khalistan and whether they were prepared to condemn the activities of extremists.

Meanwhile, the External Affairs Ministry said that it knew nothing about a request for the extradition of Mr Harinder Singh, former chargé d'affaires at the Indian Embassy in Delhi who resigned after the military action in Punjab in June and has applied for political asylum in Norway.

● LONDON: Dr Jagjit Singh Chohan, the Sikh separatist leader, said yesterday that he would strongly contest any move by the Indian authorities to extradite him.

He was commenting on a report in an Indian newspaper which claimed that the authorities were processing papers for his extradition.

Dr Chohan, aged 57, who is under a 24-hour police guard at his London home, caused an uproar when he forecast the death of Mrs Gandhi soon after the Indian Army stormed the Golden Temple.

## Feelings run high in Budapest and Bonn

With the collapse of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, the Treaty of Trianon in 1920 assigned Transylvania with its large minorities of ethnic Hungarians and Germans to Romania. Richard Bassett recently visited Transylvania and in this first of two articles, describes the minority issue as seen by the Romanian authorities in the province.

Of all the displaced minorities caused by the readjustment of Central Europe's frontiers after the First World War, none arouses more passions today than the fate of Transylvania's two million Hungarians. For centuries, this mountainous region of the Carpathians has been seen by Hungarians as the spiritual cradle of Magyar culture.

Reports of the repeated harassment of Hungarian writers, and the dismissal of Hungarian theatre directors, suggesting a cultural genocide - have reached the West with increasing frequency over the past six months.

Behind the Iron Curtain, the issue remains a thorn deeply embedded in Romanian/Hungarian relations. Two years ago relations between Bucharest and Budapest reached new depths when an official Hungarian journal attacked Romania's treatment of the minority and published a caricature of the Romanian President, Mr Nicolae Ceausescu.

Nevertheless one high ranking official in Budapest told *The Times*: "If we called for volunteers to assemble in Budapest's Bathany Square to march on Transylvania tomorrow, thousands would start queuing immediately."

What members of the Hungarian establishment cannot say in public, dissidents have been saying for a long time, although lately the Government has turned less of a blind eye to anti-Romanian *samizdat* literature. In September, Mr Gaspar Miklos Tamas, a historian exiled from Transylvania, now living in Budapest, was invited to Hungary after he wrote to *The Times* seeking help from Western public opinion for the Hungarian minority.

## Transylvania, part 1: Romania's restless minorities



Facets of Transylvania: Traditional mode of transport in Cluj, the regional capital (above) and a picturesque corner of Sibiu, further to the south

The emotion the mention of Transylvania provokes among Hungarians in Budapest is at first glance conspicuously absent in the province itself. In the words of Dr Nicolae Beuran, Vice-President of the county council of Cluj (or Kolosvar as the Hungarians call the capital of Transylvania): "There is no minority problem here." The Hungarians, who form less than 30 per cent of the population of the city, enjoy their own theatre, newspapers and the right to Hungarian instruction in schools, three things, it is pointed out, ruthlessly denied to the Romanian majority during the days when Hungary ruled.

The intolerance of the Magyars is still recalled with bitterness. As one old German lady in Cluj put it: "The Hungarians treated the Romanians like dirt for decades."

Asked if a policy of Romanization is being carried out to pay off these old scores, Romanians tend to look rather injured. Officials insist that the Hungarians enjoy the same rights as those of any other Romanian citizen.

There is also a German-speaking community of around 250,000 in Transylvania. Blond and fair-skinned, they have retained their Teutonic character since the middle of the

twelfth century when King Geza II summoned them from the middle Rhine to protect Hungary. Herr Hans Schneider, the official spokesman for the Germans in Sibiu, also denies the existence of any problems for his minority.

"We are the last real Teutons", he insists, quoting examples of many "Saxons" as the Germans are called, who, having emigrated, seek to return to Romania after what he calls disillusionment with the industrialized communities of West Germany.

Nonetheless, thousands of the "Saxons" apply for emigration visas each year and the restrictions imposed on them by the Ceausescu Government sour relations between Romania and West Germany.

In Transylvania, Bonn's offer to "buy" the Saxons is seen by Romanians as the selfish desire of West German industrialists to replace Turkish and Yugoslav guest-workers with more efficient Germans.

Herr Schneider and other Romanian officials insist that talk of minority suffering is a Western fiction. Of all the large German minorities in Eastern Europe, they point out, only that of Transylvania has survived.

Tomorrow: Minority views.



## Flight from extinction for giraffes

Mombasa, Kenya (AP) -

Twenty-one rare reticulated giraffes were loaded on to a cargo plane with a high roof yesterday and sent to the United States in an attempt to prevent their extinction.

Only 1,000 reticulated giraffes, considered the most beautiful of the four most common giraffe subspecies, exist in Kenya and there are fears they might die out within 10 years.

Their destination is the Busch Gardens Zoo in Tampa, Florida, where it is hoped to start a pure gene pool for breeding in the United States.

Originally scheduled for May, the airlift was delayed and the animals were too tall for the planned transport plane, a Boeing 747. A Canadian-built CL424 "Guppy", which is four inches taller, was selected for the \$125,000 (\$299,000) flight.

After stops in Nigeria and the Azores, the giraffes are expected to arrive in New York this morning for 30 days quarantine.

## Violence disrupts poll in New Caledonia

Noumea, New Caledonia, (AFP) - Town Halls were set on fire and voting boxes were destroyed as militant separatists yesterday tried to disrupt elections for a new assembly in this French South Pacific territory.

But although violence rumbled on last night, officials insisted that the count in most areas was normal.

With 75 per cent of the count in, the right-wing pro-French Rally for Caledonia in the Republic (RPCR) had about 70 per cent of the vote, and a clear assembly majority of 34 out of 42 seats.

The assembly, with increased autonomy, had to prepare a 1989 referendum on whether the islands should become an independent state.

Officials said the militant separatists involved in yesterday's incidents were from the Kanak (Melanesian) Socialist National Liberation Front (FLNKS) which had threatened to stop the elections "by all means," and want immediate independence.

Liberation front militants stopped or impeded the voting

in about 50 of the territory's 133 polling stations, particularly in outlying areas, officials said. Of 106 small stations, only 59 were open.

Road blocks and demonstrations also held up voters. But the poll was heavy and uninterrupted in the European-majority capital, where security was tight. France had earlier sent 300 extra anti-riot and paramilitary police to the territory.

Officials suspended mayors at Houe and Ponerhouen, accusing one of burning election lists and the other of inciting violence. At Ponerhouen, a Melanesian woman had her hand blown off by a grenade thrown by security forces.

Clashes continued after the polls closed. A supermarket was set on fire in a Noumea suburb, and one shop was set on fire and another ransacked at Poca on the west coast.

Clashes also erupted at Thio between Wallisians, originally from the French territory of Wallis and Futuna, and separatists. On the island of Ouvéa, the town hall was sacked and set ablaze by about 60 militants.

## Law Report November 19 1984

## Out of court settlement liable to gains tax

Zim Properties Ltd v Procter (Inspector of Taxes) v Zim Properties Ltd

Before Mr Justice Warner

[Judgment delivered November 8]

A capital sum paid to compromise a High Court action for damages was received as consideration for the disposal of an asset and was chargeable to capital gains tax. That asset was the taxpayer company's right of action and the consideration received by it was a capital sum derived from that asset within the meaning of section 22(3) of the Finance Act 1965.

Mr Justice Warner so held in a reserved judgment in the Chancery Division dismissing an appeal by the taxpayer company, Zim Properties Ltd, and a cross-appeal by the Crown from a determination of the special commissioners who upheld an estimated assessment to corporation tax for the accounting period to March 1986 in respect of chargeable gains arising on the company's disposal of an asset.

The taxpayer company, a property investment company, contracted in 1973 to sell properties in Manchester. Completion of the sale did not take place because the taxpayer company's failure to show

good title to one of the properties. In 1974 the purchaser, as they were entitled to, repudiated the contract.

In consequence the taxpayer company, contending that the situation had arisen because of the alleged negligence of its former solicitors, Austin & Co. Leeds, in preparing the contract, initiated legal proceedings in the High Court against the firm. In 1976 that action was compromised by the solicitors agreeing to pay to the taxpayer company £69,000.

On the hearing of the appeal by the taxpayer company against the consequent corporation tax assessment in respect of chargeable gains, the special commissioners upheld the Crown's case that the capital sum was derived from the taxpayer company's right of action and that the payment of the sum was a disposal of the right within the meaning of the general words of section 22(3) of the Act.

The special commissioners accepted an alternative contention raised by the taxpayer company that in computing the amount of its liability to tax, the right was thereupon to be deemed to have been acquired for its market value within the meaning of section 22(4)(a) of the Act.

1965 Act are now contained in the Capital Gains Tax Act 1979.]

Mr Andrew Thornhill and Mr Kevin Procter for the taxpayer company, Mr Robert Carnwath for the Crown.

MR JUSTICE WARNER said that the company's attack on the commissioners' decision that for the purposes of section 22(3) of the Act the compensation was "derived" from its right of action against the solicitors, it was argued that the company had no more than a claim against the solicitors that might or might not have succeeded and that such a claim was not a form of property and therefore not an asset for capital gains tax purposes.

That argument was rejected. It would be inconsistent with the decision of the House of Lords in *O'Brien v Benson's Hosiery (Holdings) Ltd* (1980) AC 562 to hold that a right to bring an action to seek to enforce a claim that was not frivolous or vexatious, that could be turned to account by negotiating a compromise that yielded a substantial capital sum could not be an "asset" within the meaning of that term in the legislation.

But at the forefront of the taxpayer company's case was its contention that in the correct

analysis, the assets from which the compensation was derived were the properties in the sale contract and that the receipt of the sum should be treated as a part disposal of those properties either by virtue of the general words of section 22(3) or by virtue of section 22(5) (a) or (c).

To hold otherwise, Mr Thornhill said, would be to transgress the basic rule that capital gains tax was a tax on real gains and not on arithmetical differences and would also be inconsistent with authorities showing that the right to sue for damages was not an asset for the purposes of the tax.

That argument failed also. The reality of the matter was that the real source of the capital sum was the taxpayer company's right of action: that was what the right to sue was, and it was the taxpayer company's right of action that the taxpayer company sold to the taxpayer company.

Further, the commissioners were correct to find that that right of action was "acquired by the taxpayer company" otherwise than by way of a bargain made at arm's length. Thus the argument that the sum was derived from the taxpayer company for the purpose of reducing the amount of the liability to the tax in the event of its main contention

failing, namely that section 22 (4) applied so as to require the relevant asset to be taken as having been acquired for a consideration equal to its market value, was upheld.

The Crown had argued first, that there was never an "acquisition" of the right to sue by the taxpayer company within the meaning of section 22, and second that if there was such an acquisition it had occurred not as the taxpayer company contended at the time in 1974 when the purchasers decided to complete but a year earlier.

It would seem to be doubtful if the right to sue here in question could have had a market value either in 1973 or in 1974. But proceeding on the footing that it had, it was in 1973 that the taxpayer company had, in reliance on the allegedly negligent advice of its solicitors, acted to its detriment in entering into a contract in inappropriate terms and was thereby subjected to the risk of financial loss. The commissioners were thus correct to hold that the acquisition of the right was in July 1973.

It follows that both the appeal and the cross appeal would be dismissed and the case referred back to the commissioners for figures to be agreed.

Solicitors: Berwin Leighton, Solicitor of Inland Revenue.

## Residence rule for grants is against EEC law

Regina v Inner London Education Authority, Ex parte Hinde

Regina v ILEA, Ex parte Doverley

Regina v Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council, Ex parte Phillips

Before Mr Justice Taylor

[Judgment delivered November 12]

In refusing the grant of educational awards to the applicants who were EEC nationals the respondent education authorities by their restrictive interpretation of "vocational school" within article 7(3) of Council Regulation (EEC) No 1612/68 and the Education (Mandatory Awards) Regulations (SI 1983 No 1132) had imposed a three-year residence qualification which constituted discrimination contrary to European law.

The education authorities in denying the applicants access to training in vocational schools had discriminated against Miss Duerley and Mr Phillips on the ground of nationality by denying them access, under the same conditions as British workers, to vocational training contrary to article 7(3) of Council Regulation (EEC) No 1612/68 and by denying them access to vocational training under the same terms as British citizens contrary to Article 7 of the Treaty of Rome.

Mr Justice Taylor so stated in the Queen's Bench Division allowing applications by Christiana Eugenie Duerley and Michael Gerard Phillips for judicial review of the decisions of ILEA and the Metropolitan Borough of Knowsley, Merseyside, that the applicants did not qualify for grants under the 1983 Regulations, which were made under the Education Act 1962, as amended by the Education Act 1980. The Department of Education provides funds for such grants.

His Lordship found that the course of training to be pursued by David Christopher Hinde was not vocational training and that application was dismissed.

His Lordship said that the interrelation of articles 7 and 128 was simple and clear. The decision in *Forster v British Steel* (1983) ECR 2323 clearly turned upon the terms of those two articles and was direct authority from the Court of Justice of the European Communities in favour of Miss Duerley and Mr Phillips.

His Lordship declined to refer the matter to the European Court.

Solicitors: Bindman & Partners; Arthur Smith & Broadie-Griffith; Wigan; Treasury Solicitor: Mr D. C. Love, Kirby; Mr R. A. Latham.

Mr Hinde was a citizen of the Irish Republic. He came to the United Kingdom in 1980 and in February 1983 was accepted for an LLB course at Queen Mary College, London, and became a solicitor. In June 1983 he applied to ILEA for an education award. The application was refused on three grounds: that he did not fulfil the three year ordinary residence requirement; that the LLB was not a vocational course and that Queen Mary College was not a vocational school.

Miss Duerley was a French citizen who came to the United Kingdom in September 1980 and applied to ILEA for an award in respect of a postgraduate certificate for education course at King's College, London. Her application was refused initially on the ground that she had not fulfilled the three year residence requirement and then later on the ground that the faculty of education in King's College was not a vocational school.

Mr Phillips was a national of the Republic of Ireland. He arrived in the United Kingdom in December 1980. He was accepted for a postgraduate certificate of education course at Edge Hill College of Higher Education. He applied for a mandatory grant but was refused on the ground that Edge Hill College was not on the recognized list of establishments for European Community migrant workers.

Mr Eldred Tabachnick QC, Mr Richard Drabble and Mr Adrian Lynch for Mr Hinde and Miss Duerley; Mr Richard Drabble for Mr Phillips; Mr David Donaldson, QC and Mr Paul Walker for the Secretary of State for Education; Mr James Goudie QC and Mr John McDermott for the Borough of Knowsley; Mr James Goudie QC and Mr William Birtles for ILEA.

MR JUSTICE TAYLOR said that "vocational school" did not refer only to establishments offering manual and technical courses or where vocational training was the

main activity but extended to establishments providing professional training and those providing vocational training on a substantial and continuing basis whatever else it might also do. His Lordship agreed with the decision in *Machifon v Department of Education and Science* (1983) Ch 227.

The faculty of education in King's College, London and Edge Hill College were vocational schools and Miss Duerley and Mr Phillips were entitled to succeed under that head. The LLB course was not vocational training. The test was whether the training was intended to prepare or qualify a person for a particular vocation or job. The faculty of law of a university did not direct its teaching specifically to the training of barristers or solicitors and was not designed for that purpose. The law degree was described in the prospectus as the academic stage and what followed at law school as the vocational stage. Accordingly the argument on the meaning of vocational schools did not avail Mr Hinde.

It was argued on behalf of the applicants that article 128 of the Treaty of Rome (relating to the implementation of a common vocational training policy) brought vocational training within the Treaty and that article 7 therefore operated so as to prohibit discrimination on the ground of nationality.

His Lordship said that the interrelation of articles 7 and 128 was simple and clear. The decision in *Forster v British Steel* (1983) ECR 2323 clearly turned upon the terms of those two articles and was direct authority from the Court of Justice of the European Communities in favour of Miss Duerley and Mr Phillips.

His Lordship declined to refer the matter to the European Court.

Solicitors: Bindman & Partners; Arthur Smith & Broadie-Griffith; Wigan; Treasury Solicitor: Mr D. C. Love, Kirby; Mr R. A. Latham.

## Judge cannot tell jury to convict

Regina v Challinor

Before Lord Justice Parker, Mr Justice Wood and Mr Justice French

[Judgment delivered November 9]

A trial judge had no power to preempt the verdict of the jury by directing them to convict, even when the judge was satisfied that on the evidence the jury would not have been justified in acquitting the accused.

The Court of Appeal, holding that the judge had erred in so directing the jury but that no miscarriage of justice had resulted, applied the proviso to section 2(1) of the Criminal Appeal Act 1968 and dismissed the appeal of Robert Challinor against his conviction on September 12, 1983 in Liverpool Crown Court (Mr Recorder D. Clark QC) of driving while disqualified, for which he was given an absolute discharge and no endorsement was ordered.

Mr G. F. Baxter, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant, Mr D. L. Bennett for the Crown.

MR JUSTICE FRENCH, delivering the reserved judgment of the court, said that the evidence established that a police officer saw the appellant at the wheel of an Austin 1300 motor car which was towing, by means of a rope, out of the yard of a police station and along a road. He stopped both vehicles; the appellant admitted that he was the owner of the Austin 1300 and admitted that he was disqualified for driving.

There was no evidence as to the mechanical state of the car, other than the fact that it was being towed. At the close of the prosecution case a submission was made that there was no fit case to go before the jury.

It was conceded that the appellant was driving the vehicle (see *Nichol v*

*Leach* (1973) RTR 476) but it was submitted that the prosecution had failed to prove that the Austin 1300 was a "motor vehicle" as defined by section 190(1) of the Road Traffic Act 1972, namely "a mechanically propelled vehicle intended or adapted for use on roads".

The recorder rejected the submission of no case. The appellant called no evidence, and the recorder then ruled that, as a matter of law, there being nothing to suggest the contrary, the Austin 1300 was a motor vehicle within the meaning of the statute. He directed the jury to return a verdict of guilty.

On a number of occasions the Divisional Court had considered whether a vehicle constructed for use on the road had ceased to be a "motor vehicle" within the definition. In *Newbury v Simmonds* (1961) 2 QB 345 it had been argued that because the car in question had no engine at the material time it was not a "mechanically propelled vehicle" within the Act. The Divisional Court had rejected that contention and sent back to the justices with a direction to convict.

In *Smart v Allan* (1963) 1 QB 291 the Divisional Court had held, in relation to a vehicle that had been bought for £2 as scrap, that "Where, unlike *Newbury v Simmonds*, there is no reasonable prospect of the vehicle ever being mobile again... at any rate at that stage, a vehicle has ceased to be a mechanically propelled vehicle". Their Lordships respectfully agreed with each of those cases.

Having regard to those decisions and to the state of the evidence in the instant case their Lordships had no doubt that there was at least a prima facie case. However, in their Lordships' judgment, the recorder

erred in directing the jury to return a verdict of guilty.

A similar situation had arisen in *DPF v Stonehouse* (1978) AC 55 where the House of Lords considered whether the effect of a direction by the trial judge that the jury should convict, while Lord Diplock and Viscount Dilhorne held the direction to be a proper one in the circumstances, the majority of the House held that the jury should have left it to the jury to decide whether or not the evidence established the attempt charged.

Lord Salmon said at p 79: "... Whilst there is no doubt that if a judge is satisfied that there is no evidence before the jury which could justify them in convicting the accused and that it would be perverse for them to do so, it is the judge's duty to direct them to acquit. This rule, which has long been established, is to protect the accused against being wrongly convicted. But there is no converse rule - although there may be some who think that there should be."

In their Lordships' judgment there was no evidence on which the jury could have found that the Austin 1300 was other than a motor vehicle within the meaning of the definition. There was nothing to show that it had suffered more than break-down and the evidence certainly admitted at least of the possibility that, in the cause of the break-down, it might be repaired and that the motive power (assuming it to be absent at the material time) might be restored.

In the result, therefore, their Lordships were satisfied that no miscarriage of justice had occurred. Accordingly the proviso would be applied and the appeal dismissed.

Solicitor: Mr B. H. Crebbin, Liverpool.

## Reselling car with title retention clause

Four Point Garage Ltd v Carter

Before Mr Justice Simon Brown

[Judgment delivered November 9]

Where a purchaser, acting in good faith, purchased goods from a buyer of those goods which were supplied subject to a "Romalpa" clause (seller retaining title to goods until payment), the purchaser acquired legal title to the goods since the clause did not prevent the buyer being entitled to resell the goods.

Mr Justice Simon Brown so held in the Queen's Bench Division giving judgment for the defendant in an action in which the plaintiffs sought a declaration that they were owners and entitled to possession of a Ford Escort XR3i motor car.

MR JUSTICE SIMON BROWN said that the defendant, desiring to purchase a new car, contacted a garage, Freeway (Cousins) Ltd, which agreed to sell the car to the defendant.

Freeway arranged with Four Point Garage Ltd, the plaintiffs, both the purchase of the car and the delivery of it direct to the defendant. The defendant was unaware of the clause in the contract which provided that Freeway had delivered the car.

The plaintiffs believed Freeway were not retailers but engaged in the leasing and hiring of cars, and that the defendant was such a customer rather than a purchaser.

A few days after the delivery of the car to the defendant, the plaintiffs were going into liquidation, which event duly happened.

seller until such goods are fully paid for.

His Lordship said that it was common ground that each party acted throughout in good faith, one or other being the innocent victim of Freeway's fraud, and that the plaintiff had never acquired good title to the car as between themselves and the plaintiffs since payment was never made.

The plaintiffs contended that the clause prevented title passing to Freeway and therefore the defendant acquired no better title; moreover, the defendant could not claim the benefit of the provisions of section 25(1) of the Sale of Goods Act 1979.

The defendant submitted there was nothing in the contract between Freeway and himself which precluded their passing title in the goods; moreover, either Freeway obtained constructive possession of the car and made constructive delivery to the defendant, or the plaintiffs were in effect Freeway's agent in the delivery of the car under section 25(1) of the 1979 Act.

His Lordship said that there was no good reason to differentiate the present case and the situation where a seller delivered to his buyer who then delivered on to his sub-purchaser. It was a rare situation where the party contesting the purchaser's title in the goods was the very party which effected delivery.

Freeway was entitled to sell the car to the defendant otherwise, in selling, they were acting contrary to their contractual obligations. The "Romalpa" clause here was insufficient to prevent commercial garages to preclude the implication of the buyer garage being entitled to resell if that was its ordinary course of business and it was unaware that the seller garage believed otherwise.

Solicitors: Dale & Newbery, Feltham; Hunt & Hunt, Romford.

Parkside Leasing Ltd v Smith (Inspector of Taxes)

Before Mr Justice Scott

[Judgment delivered November 8]

In computing a company's profits for an accounting period, interest paid to it by cheque was not to be taken as having been received by that company on the date that it had received the cheque. Liability to tax on profits required actual payment and the mere receipt of a cheque did not of itself place the proceeds at the payee's disposal.

Mr Justice Scott so held in the Chancery Division in allowing an appeal from Cancock general commissioners by the taxpayer company, Parkside Leasing Ltd, and discharging an assessment to corporation tax made for its accounting period to April 9, 1979.

Mr Robert Venables for the taxpayer company; Mr Robert Carnwath for the Crown.

## Mere receipt of cheque not taxable

MR JUSTICE SCOTT said that on April 9, 1979, the taxpayer company received a cheque that included interest of £44,070. That cheque was presented to the taxpayer company's bankers on April 11 and cleared a few days later.

The taxpayer company began a new trade on April 10, 1979, and incurred allowable losses in its accounting period beginning on that day. Thus it wished to bring the interest payment into account in that new accounting period.

The Crown argued that the interest was received on April 9, the date of receipt of the cheque.

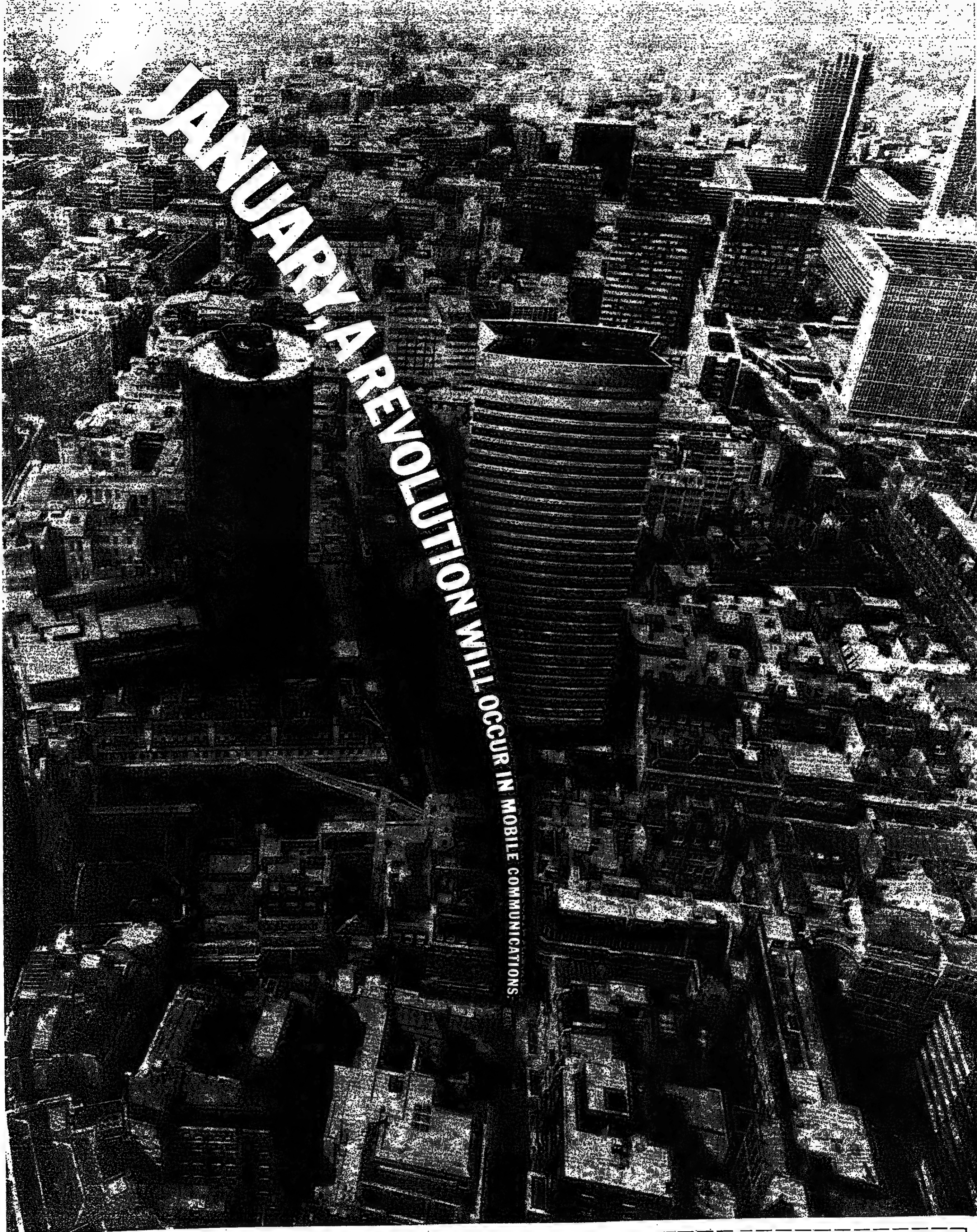
It was well established that for tax liability to be incurred receipt of the interest was necessary and that receipt was not enough; see *Dewar v Inland Revenue Commissioners* (1931) AC 566.

Plainly there could be an effective

receipt notwithstanding that actual cash had not come into the hands of a taxpayer. At the latest the taxpayer company had to be taken as receiving the interest when its bank account was credited with the amount.

But mere receipt of the cheque did not place the proceeds at the taxpayer company's disposal; the cheque might not have been honoured. Delivery of the cheque might for some purposes be regarded as conditional payment. But it was not such a payment as allowed the receipt of the cheque to be regarded as the receipt of the proceeds.






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**THE TIMES**  
OF THE ISLAMIC WORLD

In Part I of an examination of the Muslim countries, Edward Mortimer and foreign correspondents trace

the religious and revolutionary tide that began to flow in Iran following the deposition of the Shah by the Ayatollah Khomeini and has since swept across the world to threaten in varying degrees the political stability of the Arab nations

# The Shiite challenge

Satwant Singh, a policeman in the assassination of Gandhi, is now a special inv.

Singh, and the Prime Minister of his country, are now issuing newspaper say the other side of the coin.

That event had an extraordinary impact within the Muslim world as well as outside it. For the first time since Nasser in 1956, a Muslim nation successfully defied humiliating and inflicted material damage on the interests of a major western power in this case the United States. And it did so through a movement acting not in the name of Islam itself, but in that of Islamism, a growth with much older and deeper roots.

What could happen in Iran could happen elsewhere. That thought ran through the world, causing tremors of excitement in millions of oppressed Muslims and tremors of fear in those with a stake in a westernised, political and social order.

The tremors following the revolution have not yet ended. The car-bomb attack on the US embassy annex in Beirut, on September 20, was only one of many recent after shocks. The war between Iran and Iraq is now in its fifth year. Riots in countries from Indonesia to Morocco are attributed to Iran's example, if not to direct Iranian subversion.

Yet outside Iran the revolution has not so far triumphed. The revolutionary armies were able to throw back the Iraqi invader, but not, as yet, to carry the war any significant distance into his territory. The despised shahdoms of the Gulf may have trembled, but they are still there. President Sadat may have been killed, but his regime survives and so does his peace treaty with Israel. In Iran itself, war is taking its toll.

The picture that emerges from our survey of 20 Muslim or partly Muslim countries is not

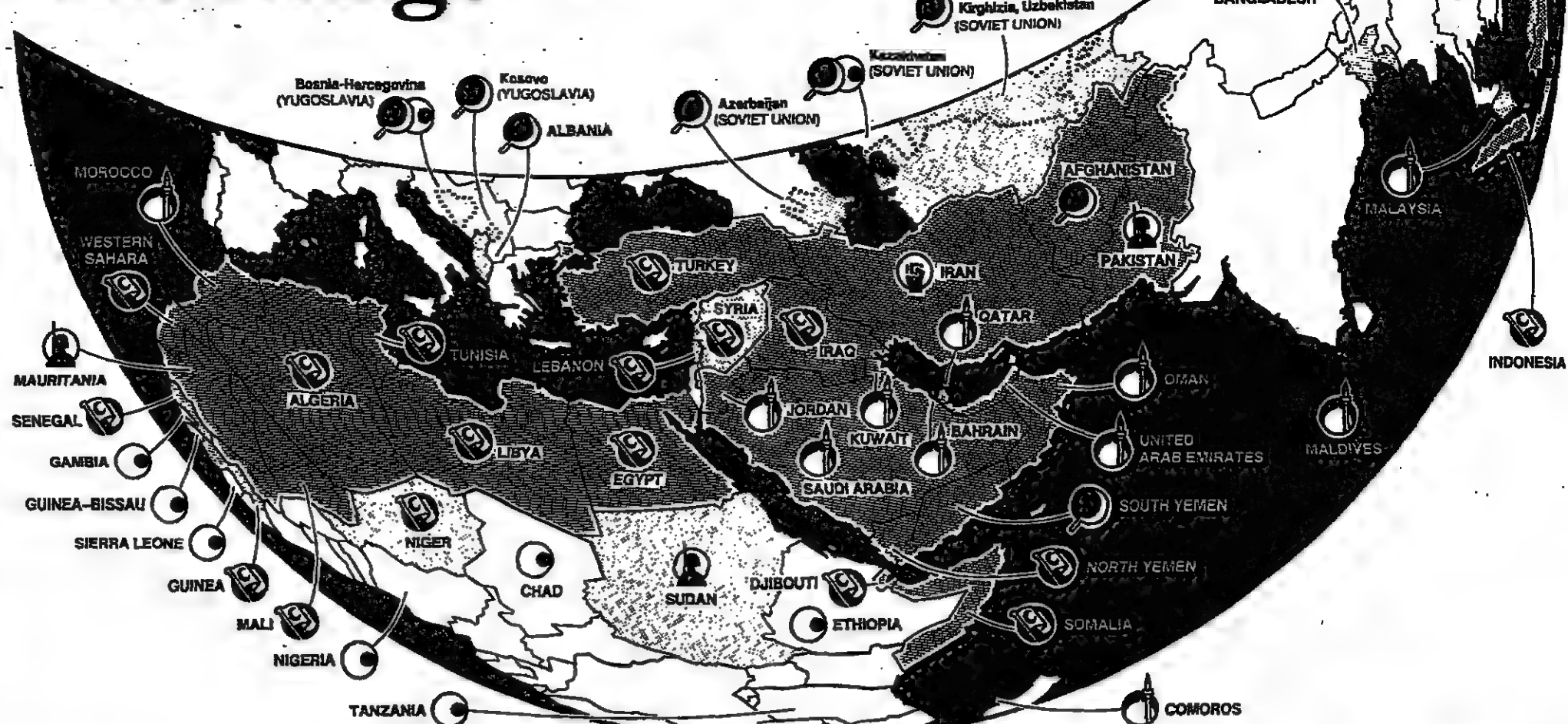
uniform. Some have traditional Islamic regimes struggling to preserve their authority while absorbing western influence. Some have military regimes seeking to establish their legitimacy with the slogan of Islamic rule.

In some reactions to the revolution are complicated by mutual fears and suspicions between Sunni and Shia Muslims. In others there is no significant Shiite population and the issue is simply how the Koran and the Sunna (the tradition based on the recorded words and deeds of the Prophet) should be applied in modern society. Some governments - Syria and Indonesia for instance - have repressed Islamic militancy with great firmness. Others have tried to take the wind out of its sails by public displays of piety or by reviving Islamic laws. Most have tried a bit of both.

Again, in many Muslim countries - Egypt, Sudan, Lebanon, Syria, Malaysia are obvious examples - the issue is complicated by large non-Muslim minorities who fear a fully-fledged Islamic state. And finally, where Muslims are in a minority their aspirations can vary from mere equality before the law to actual secession into a separate Muslim state. In the latter case - as in India before the creation of Pakistan in 1947 - Islamic militancy and nationalism are almost indistinguishable.

Outside Iran, militant Islam is still seen as an opposition to regimes which usually permit little open political dissent. Although they may be no less hostile to Islamic dissent than to other sorts, their repression of it is usually less ruthless because they fear the popular reaction that any outright assault on Islam would provoke.

The demand for an Islamic state may mean different things in different contexts, and it is not articulated everywhere with the same force. In most parts of the Muslim world the obstacles still appear formidable.



murderers and other felons are still sent to prison.

Since the end of 1982, moreover, the regime has shown some awareness that it needs the services of the westernised middle class and therefore has been more willing to allow it to live its private life in its own way provided it does not openly challenge the political and religious order. On December 22 1982, Khomeini

name. In a sermon on September 7, Hajjotollah Hashemi Rafsanjani, speaker of parliament and a senior figure in the regime, called on the members of "God's Party" (i.e. the regime's activist supporters) to clean themselves up, stop putting up so many portraits of Khomeini, and generally show more moderation (see box).

Perhaps he had been reading a book by Mehdi Bazargan, the former prime minister, which is now circulating in Tehran. According to Bazargan, "narcotics are the old and the young who had faith in God and followed the Koran and the Prophet, but who have now turned away from religion and God because of the behaviour of clerical judges and the courts and those responsible for inquisitions and impositions of belief".

The speeches of Iranian leaders are eagerly scanned by western analysts for signs of willingness to accept a compromise settlement in the war with Iraq. So far, however, the most one can say is that greater efforts are being made to present Iran's case in the war in a way more likely to appeal to neutral or even non-Muslim opinion. The military statements of the last two years, and the vastly superior weaponry Iraq has been receiving from foreign powers, especially the Soviet Union, seem to have made Iran aware of the disadvantages of diplomatic isolation.

Yet the stated *sine qua non* of any peaceful settlement remains the same: the removal and punishment of the aggressor, President Saddam Hussein. Nominally a Sunni Muslim, Saddam is regarded by Khomeini as an unbeliever. He is guilty of ruling a country which includes the holy places of Shia Islam, and the majority of whose population is Shia Muslim; of controlling a ruling party whose ideology exalts Arab nationalism at the expense of religious belief; of seeking to strangle the Islamic revolution at birth first by expelling Khomeini from Iraq in 1978,

then by executing his Iraqi counterpart, Ayatollah Muhammad Baqir al-Sadr in April 1980, and finally by all-out war on Iran in September 1980.

Iraq's Shia majority might a priori be supposed to share these grievances. Indeed, some Iraqi Shia religious leaders have taken refuge in Tehran, and from there echo Khomeini's anathemas on President Saddam. Yet the Ba'ath Party regime has suppressed the Shiite agitation in Iraq following the Iranian revolution, and persuaded large numbers of Iraqi Shiite conscripts to fight effectively against the Iranian counter-attack. It now seems much less probable than it did a year or two ago that Iraq will be engulfed by the Shiite tide.

But a word of caution may be timely. Iraq is a highly-centralized state, and Saddam Hussein has concentrated virtually all power in his own hands. Should anything happen to him, it could be wracked by a succession struggle within the Ba'ath Party, or within the armed forces, and then resistance to Iranian pressure might crumble after all.

**SYRIA**  
"Islam shall be the religion of the head of the state." That clause in the Syrian Constitution is remarkable for several reasons. It is unique among Arab constitutions (except for that of Lebanon) in not specifying Islam as the religion of the state itself. It was inserted only as a compromise, after the original draft promulgated by the government in 1973, which did not refer to Islam at all but did enshrine the leading position of the Ba'ath Party, had provoked serious and widespread riots. And the actual head of state in Syria, Hafez al-Assad, is not in the eyes of many of his fellow citizens a Muslim at all, partly because he belongs to a heretical minority sect which accords divine or quasi-divine status to the Prophet's son-in-law Ali and partly because he has ruthlessly repressed by far the most serious attempt at an Islamic revolution to have occurred in any Arab state in modern times.

Assad heads a rival branch of that same secular Arab nationalist Ba'ath Party which Khomeini has anathematized in Iraq. He is firmly secular in his approach to politics and society. Alcohol is freely available in Damascus under his regime, and Iranian "tourists" who tried to interfere with this were promptly sent packing. The streets of the capital are thronged with schoolgirls in khaki uniforms, mostly bareheaded. Yet Syria is Iran's only close ally in the Arab world.

It is true that Assad is also the only non-Sunni head of state in the Muslim world outside Iran. That may not be wholly a coincidence, but it is unlikely that his alliance with Khomeini represents some kind of embryonic Shiite internationalism, as other Arab rulers are prone to suspect. On both sides it is essentially tactical and pragmatic, based mainly on a common antipathy to President Hussein of Iraq. A secondary value of it, from Assad's point of view, is that while it lasts Iran refrains from giving any encouragement to Islamic opposition to his rule.

Perhaps, partly for that reason, there have been hardly

any visible manifestations of Islamic militancy in Syria since the army and the "Defence Brigades" commanded by Assad's brother Rifaat surrounded the city of Hama in February 1982, following an armed uprising there by the Muslim Brotherhood. Amnesty International quotes an unofficial estimate of 10,000 dead in the subsequent repression. Since then, a Brotherhood magazine and reports of individual shootings in Aleppo have been the only indications of continued Islamic militancy.

The Muslim Brotherhood, branches of which exist in many Arab countries, has nothing to do with Shiism which was founded in Egypt in the late 1920s by a young teacher called Hassan al-Banna, to struggle against corruption, irreligion and British imperialism.

**EGYPT**  
The Brotherhood, which has been detailed as the first mass-supported movement to cope with the plight of Islam in the modern world, was ruthlessly suppressed in Egypt after an attempt on Nasser's life in 1954. Only after Nasser's death, when Anwar Sadat came to power, did it begin to be tolerated again. Sadat saw it as a useful antidote to left-wing ideas, but he himself was to pay the price when young Muslims turned against him for the corruption within his regime and his peace treaty with Israel.

This coincided with the revolution in Iran and with Sadat's hospitality to the Shah. In 1980 violent incidents broke out in the southern city of Assuit between Muslim militants and members of Egypt's indigenous Coptic Christian community. Such riots continued during the summer of 1981, culminating in clashes in the Zawiat al-Hamra district of Cairo. In September Sadat used this as a pretext for a general round-up of all his opponents - Muslim, Christian, Nasserist and leftist.

Those members of Islamic groups who were not arrested promptly went underground: five of them, belonging to a group called Jihad, assassinated Sadat on October 6, 1981. No one seems to know how many militants or how many groups there are now. Certainly there are fewer signs of militancy than before Sadat's death. But the Muslim Brotherhood managed, with the secular "New Wafd" party, to win about 16 parliamentary seats last May. The Brothers now intend to push for the application of *Sharia* - divine law - as Egypt's only legal code.

**SUDAN**  
The Muslim Brotherhood suffered a setback with the decision announced on September 29 by President Nimeiry in Sudan to suspend the special courts he had set up to enforce Islamic law. Although Nimeiry claimed he could do this because the country was free of corruption and immorality, the decision looked very much like a retreat under pressure.

The Muslim Brothers in Sudan, or at least the wing of them represented by Dr Hassan al-Turabi, the former attorney-general (now presidential assistant for foreign affairs), had supported Nimeiry's efforts to "Islamicise" the Sudanese penal code, announced in September last year, but were not directly responsible for it. Indeed part of

Nimeiry's motive for doing it may have been to weaken the Brotherhood by stealing its main policy plank. His main adviser in the matter was Mr Awad al-Jid Muhammad Ahmad, who replaced Dr Turabi as presidential adviser on legal affairs, on May 1 this year.

Besides the penal code, Nimeiry introduced a complete ban on alcohol, which he

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## LEBANON

Since June 1982, the Israeli occupation of south Lebanon has made that country the most fertile terrain for the seeds of revolutionary Shiism. The Shites are the largest single community in Lebanon's confessional mosaic, also the fastest-growing and most underprivileged. They live in three main areas: the Bekaa valley in the east (occupied by Syria since 1976), the south (occupied by Israel since 1982), and the southern shantytowns of Beirut. The blend of Shia Islam and politics in Lebanon antedates the Iranian revolution, being associated with the "Amal" movement. But Nabih Berri, the Imam's political heir, has steered Amal in the direction of Lebanese patriotism rather than pan-Islam or pan-Shiism. Since 1981 this orientation has been challenged by the dissident "Islamic Amal", which is explicitly pro-Iranian.

The Syrians, actually allied with Iran against Iraq and wishing to make life as unpleasant as possible for rival foreign powers in Lebanon, allowed an Iranian revolutionary guard contingent about 500 strong to establish itself in the Bekaa around Baalbek, linking up with Islamic Amal and with its alter ego the Hizballah (Party of God). From somewhere within this nexus comes the now notorious "Islamic Jihad" movement which has terrorized western and pro-western interests in Lebanon and throughout the Middle East. It came into its own last year with the devastation of the US embassy in April and then - its major exploit to date - the simultaneous bombing of the US and French contingents of the multinational force on October 23.

The attacks were carried out by suicide drivers: this has become Islamic Jihad's hallmark. This year there have been further suicide bombings against Israeli troops in southern Lebanon and the one against the US embassy annex. According to the Christian Phalangist radio station in Beirut, the group is based in the Shiite slum suburb of Burj al-Barajneh - a theory taken seriously by western security experts.

## SAUDI ARABIA AND THE GULF

The suicide bombing of the US embassy in Kuwait last December, also claimed by Islamic Jihad, was a reminder that revolutionary Shiism is also a threat to Saudi Arabia and the Arab Gulf states which are militarily much weaker as well. Most have significant Shiite populations whom they treat as second-class citizens. This is particularly true of Bahrain, where Shites are almost certainly a majority, and which Iran in the past has claimed as rightfully its own territory. In May 1982 73 Shites were given prison sentences in Bahrain for an attempt to overthrow the government the previous December, allegedly at Iran's instigation. Eleven were Saudi citizens, and the plot reportedly included a plan for an uprising in eastern Saudi Arabia.

## TOMORROW

Part II: How the Islamic movement has spread north and east of Iran

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MONDAY PAGE

# Mother of 10 fights sex for under-16s

The Appeal Court today hears Victoria Gillick's plea to stop young girls receiving contraceptives without parental consent.  
Ann Kent reports on the emotive issue

Victoria Gillick seems to generate hostility from even mild-mannered people. They see her as a narrow-minded Catholic bigot who ought to concentrate on her 10 (probably ghesly) children. They ask what right she has to campaign against contraception for girls under 16 when she has brought 10 people into an overcrowded world.

Mrs Gillick's disapproval of teenage sex has already been well rehearsed. I was more interested in discovering how anyone could bring up 10 children (now aged between two and 16), and still have the energy to comb her hair, let alone take on the medical and legal establishment?

Well, it should be said at once that Mrs Gillick doesn't spend much time combing her hair and gives little thought to her appearance. She simply doesn't think it important.

Education is important. The Gillicks spend £70 a week on education and about £45 a week on food. They have no television and Mrs Gillick seems astonished that anyone might think they would. "We regard it as GPI - general paralysis of the insane."

Her husband, Gordon, a powerful figure in the household, said: "Television involves children in fantasy. Our children are involved in reality. They act in the live theatre, go to dancing classes, belong to St John's. And because there is quiet here the children are able to talk."

Mrs Gillick's crusade against teenage contraception is personal. She wants the assurance of the establishment that her daughters, now aged two, seven, 11, 14 and 15 will never be put on the Pill without her consent while they are under 16.

The Gillicks pity people who have only two children. "It's the most painful number. They complete and argue all the time," Mrs Gillick said. And both are amazed at the spectacle of a mother standing helplessly by while her toddler throws a public tantrum.

Those mothers are so long suffering - they just stand there and let it happen. It has never happened with our children," Mrs Gillick said.

Gordon Gillick, an art teacher and freelance designer, said: "We view life as being difficult, and believe that happiness and pleasure have to be earned. If someone is being awkward or bad-mannered they don't earn those rights. At the first sign of a tantrum you tell them, 'You get up off the floor and say sorry.' And they do. They know from the tone of your voice that you mean it. I'm not embarrassed to shout at the children when we're out, if it's necessary."

The Gillicks believe many children are "over-stimulated" by parents who feel they must find them something to do every minute of the day.

**THE LEGAL CASE**

Mrs Gillick claims a DHSS memorandum of guidance issued in 1980, allowing doctors to use discretion over parental consent, is unlawful.

She says it invites doctors to contravene Sections 5 and 28 of the Sexual Offences Act 1956. Section 28 forbids the causing or encouraging of sexual intercourse with a girl under 16 and Section 5 makes it an offence to be an accessory. She also claims that under Section 8 (1) of the Family Law Reform Act 1969 patients under 18 cannot consent to medical treatment.

In July 1983 the High Court ruled that the memorandum was not unlawful. If Mrs Gillick wins the BMA will demand that the Health Department takes the case to the House of Lords. If the Lords agree with Mrs Gillick, case law will have been made. If she establishes her argument under the Sexual Offences Act doctors will no longer be able to prescribe any contraception to under-age girls - with or without their parents' consent.

Children are quite capable of amusing themselves, and quietness does not equal boredom, they say.

When I arrived at their enormous, dilapidated Georgian house in Wisbech, Cambridgeshire, their two-year-old daughter was asleep between two wicker chairs in the dining room. Five-year-old Ambrose (Bosie) was playing nearby. The 12-year-old twins, Jim and Theo, were in the schoolroom. They had to leave their secondary school because the fifth-formers took their mother's campaign personally. The twins were regularly attacked and pursued while riding their bicycles home from school. During a chase one twin rode into the side of a car and was taken home in an ambulance.

"After 10 weeks I asked them if they'd had enough and they burst into tears. But in any case, the ambulance was the last straw," Mrs Gillick said.

Typically, it did not occur to her to end the campaign. After all, it was the fault of the school, not of the twins. She can afford to pay for their home tuition for the next year with money left in a relative's will.

She doesn't know what she will do when that runs out. But like many people with deep religious convictions, she doesn't fret about the future. Some things are meant to happen.

When the Gillicks married she was a 20-year-old art student and he an art teacher of 27. They said they would like 10 children. But Victoria Gillick had no experience of what even one baby would involve. She had never been the kind of girl who peered into prams.



Victoria and Gordon Gillick pictured with their family of 10. The children clockwise from Mrs Gillick (centre) are: Clemetine (two), Sarah (seven), Gabriel (eight), twins Theodore and James (12), Benedict (16), Beattie (15), Jessie (11), Hannah (14) and Ambrose (five).

She said: "When I was expecting my first son I had no idea how big babies were, so I got a doll's clothes pattern and knitted it up. And then I produced a 10lb baby which everyone was calling Goliath."

"When I had two children, I did resent the demands they made on my time. It seemed so unfair that two tiny people could take up the whole of another person's energy. What had I gone through all that education for?"

"I can remember throwing things across the room when I felt like throwing them at a child. The trouble is that when you first become a mother, you go into it at the wrong pace. As you have more children, you learn to pace yourself."

"My third child was blissfully easy, and then I had the twins - so there were five children under five years old. I felt this was the right balance - a fair exchange for my time."

Now Mrs Gillick's working day starts at 7 am and ends at 9 pm when the younger children have said their prayers and gone to bed. Then she has time to read or work on her campaign.

She said: "As you can see, the house isn't up to most people's standards of cleanliness. I would be worked to a shadow if I tried to keep it that way."

In fact the house isn't dirty. The furniture is battered by age rather than by her offspring, and the children keep all their possessions in their bedrooms. The Gillicks' parents don't have things all their own way - the teenage children have managed to acquire some old disco records, and their rooms are normally untidy.

Meals are heralded by the ringing of an old school bell, and are always eaten together. The children help with the chores and Mrs Gillick's daughters do all the ironing and mending. The nine whom I met seemed friendly both to each other and outsiders, and not at all repressed. They don't seem to whine either.

"Older children have a pecking order and a rivalry develops, which you can't tolerate because otherwise they will fight quite bitterly. We've told them that the authority comes from us, not from their brothers and sisters," said Mrs Gillick.

## 'Why she must not win'

Since Mr Justice Woolf dismissed her original claim in the High Court in July 1983, Mrs Gillick has mustered tremendous support from thousands of individuals and organizations.

These include 2,000 doctors who last week petitioned the General Medical Council to change its policy.

Her campaign has gained a momentum of its own, and is likely to be carried forward even if the Court of Appeal upholds Judge Woolf's decision.

The problem is that both Mrs Gillick and her opponents have right on their side. All of them are trying to protect under-age girls from the consequences of sex.

The British Medical Association is aware that many decent parents are attracted by Mrs Gillick's arguments. "People feel outraged that someone could give their 14-year-old daughter the Pill without their knowledge," said Dr John Dawson, the BMA under-secretary. "But the trouble is that the young girls who need this help don't come from secure middle-class families."

"The consequences will be awful if Mrs Gillick wins. If the appeal court agrees that giving contraception is aiding and abetting under-age sex, it would mean that no girls under 16 could have birth control - even when their parents agreed. And if she wins the argument that parents must be told about all medical treatments, then the girls would stop coming to see doctors. But they wouldn't stop having sex."

In fact, any doctor who reported an under-age girl to her parents against her wishes would face the disciplinary procedures of the GMC which controls the professional conduct of doctors.

The GMC requires doctors to try to persuade the patient to involve her parents or guardian in any decision about contraception. But its guidelines then state: "If the patient refuses to allow a parent to be told, the doctor, whether or not he intends to offer advice or

treatment, must observe professional secrecy."

But although Mrs Gillick is angry at the BMA's attitude, which she sees as part of a conspiracy by the medical establishment, much of her ire is directed at the Brook Advisory Centres.

The Brook specializes in patients under the age of 23. Last year 1,557 girls under 16 were given contraception at the Brook, compared with a total of 16,400 in other health authority clinics.

Mrs Gillick accuses the Brook centres of ignoring the DHSS guideline that "it would be most unusual to provide advice about contraception without parental consent."

Adverse publicity stemming from Mrs Gillick's campaign culminated in a claim, quickly denied, that the Brook had supplied a 10-year-old with the Pill. Soon afterwards the Health Education Council dropped the Liverpool Brook from a local programme aimed at reducing teenage pregnancies. And a publicity drive originally intended to be aimed at young people aged 13 to 19, is now to be directed at teenagers over 16.

Dr Fay Hutchinson, a senior doctor at the Brook Advisory Centre in London's Tottenham Court Road, said she always tried to persuade young girls to tell their parents they wanted birth control.

## The age gap

16: Benedict  
15: Beattie  
14: Hannah  
12: Theodore  
12: James  
11: Jessie  
8: Gabriel  
7: Sarah  
5: Ambrose  
2: Clemetine

"But there are problems," she says. "Some mothers don't want to seem to be encouraging their daughter to have sex. Some girls don't want their mothers to be involved. About a third of the under-16s say their mothers knew they were coming to the clinic."

An example of the dilemmas that doctors face is given by a London GP, Dr Lotte Newman, who is prepared to provide contraception for girls under 16, although she always tries to persuade them to inform their parents.

She says: "The children who don't want their parents told have poor home relationships. They are the girls who go to bed with a boy because it assures them of 'love'. Mrs Gillick doesn't seem to understand that the real problem-girls don't have the nous to come along for contraception. They come along when they are well advanced in their unplanned pregnancies - poor things."

## Send a single girl a non-wedding gift

Ms Susan Hesse, a 38-year-old advertising executive, has discovered a brand new cause for celebration. Recently, she sent out prettily printed announcements to 200 friends and colleagues declaring that Ms Hesse was "settling into Joyous Old Maidhood..." after which she will cease looking for Mr Right and begin giving scintillating dinner parties and soirées.

Further down came a reminder of the sterling silver cutlery Susan felt she needed to begin her life of unwedded bliss. I hope her friends bought it for her, down to the last teaspoon, too.

For, on reflection, it seems most unfair that people who miss out on marriage are usually forced to abandon hope of all those things that come along with a husband: dressing-table runners, pasta-making machines, countless pairs of candlesticks and a little china replica of a slaughtered sheep sent all the way from Australia by your cousin Rose.

Just because the parents of unmarried girls seldom feel inclined to celebrate their daughter's lucky escape by throwing a champagne reception with vol-au-vents, single women have been forced to provide their own guest towels.

I hope Ms Hesse's initiative will change all that.

Apart from ensuring a good supply of household goods, it is the most cheerful approach to continued spinsterhood since Helen Gurley Brown wrote *Sex and the Single Girl*.

Actually, most of the items suggested by the winsome ladies who run the brides' bureaux in major department stores are, like most people, not tough enough to stand up to the rigours of married life and would be better off in the care of a Joyous Old Maid or even a confirmed bachelor.

Exquisitely slender-stemmed glassware, for instance, is wasted on newly-weds. For sooner or later, they will start throwing it at each other.

Ditto soufflé dishes. No married person has time to make a soufflé nowadays; he/she is too busy having rows about whose fault it is that the lace tray cloths (a wedding present) got put into the washing machine together with a non-colourfast red T-shirt. The soufflé dish has long since become The Kitchen Bowl, full of rusty hairpins, ignored reminder-cards from the dentist and the telephone numbers of several electricians who have so far failed to come along and stop the boiler from self-destructing.

It is the likes of Ms Hesse who will put the dish to its proper use - as the receptacle for something puffy and golden which tastes like ambrosia. The soufflé will be the first course of one of those dinner parties that the hostess is able to provide now that she has the silver cutlery she asked for.

Afterwards, in the car going home, the male guests will say to their wives: "How strange that a great girl like Susan isn't married. Wonderful cook, marvellous homemaker."

And their wives, thinking of their pink-splodged lace tray-cloths, will say: "Oh Susan, she just got lucky, I guess."

It has set me thinking of events and ceremonies that I have missed out on through no fault of my own. For instance, while it is true that I have had two weddings, I have never had a 21st birthday party. The excuse given at the time was that my birthday fell too soon after my first wedding and everyone was up to here with unwrapping presents and making congratulatory speeches. So I never had a cake in the shape of a door-key.

Nor did I ever get any maternity leave, since at the time I needed it, it hadn't been invented. I could make out a good case for retrospective maternity benefits. The money could be used to replace all those things, such as liqueur glasses, which buckled under the onslaught of children. And the time could be spent dragging my little ones around the shops and getting them to choose the china, silver and linen they'd like to be given in the event of their not getting married.

It could only happen in Dallas country, Sakowitz, the specialist store deep in the heart of Texas, will provide romantics who hate putting pen to paper with "a scribe who will pen personal and meaningful love letters filled with poetry, secret references and special celebrations". The price is \$7,000 for 52 letters, a sum for which I would settle for nothing less than Cyranod Bergerac.



PENNY PERRICK

## THE VALUES OF VICTORIA GILICK

61 don't believe sex should be taught like biology, without any of the emotions. When I explained to my oldest son about menstruation, I told him so he would be more understanding about girls.

62 No teacher understands our children as well as we do. But unfortunately, I can see a day when contraceptive sex education is compulsory in schools.

63 Sex binds a marriage in the first difficult years. At the end of the day, when everything else has gone wrong, it is a kind of balm. That's why marriages fail when people have lived together first. They have used up all their balm.

64 What other parents decide about their children is their affair. Right now, there is a catch-all policy in which everyone's rights are being taken away.

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## moreover... Miles Kington

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- 21 Large tent (7)
- 22 Stucco lewdly (5)
- 23 Cetacean mammal (7)
- 24 Roman river (5)

DOWN

- 1 Give backing (6)
- 2 Having lead (3,2)
- 3 Delusional disorder (8)
- 4 European principality (13)
- 5 Vitality (4)
- 6 Refuse (7)
- 7 Meat pin (6)
- 12 Wild experience (5,3)
- 14 Argument (7)
- 15 Rugged (6)
- 16 Photoelectric cell (6)
- 19 Improvised (2,3)
- 20 Easton (4)

Recommended dictionary is the New Collins Concise

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## THE TIMES DIARY

### Still running into trouble

The American presidential election may be over, but we have not seen the last of Jesse Jackson, fiery black contender for the Democratic nomination. He has been asked by the Palestinian Writers' and Journalists' Union to address a meeting in London later this month, and British Jews will not be happy if he accepts. Jackson inflamed Jewish sensitivities during his campaign by calling Jews "Hymies" and by refusing to disassociate himself from his political ally Louis Farrakhan, who described Judaism as "a gutter religion". Jackson's fellow contender for the nomination, Gary Hart, has also been invited to come to Britain, and has accepted: for a less controversial mission. He is coming at the request of David Steel, who campaigned for Hart during the primaries, and will address a Liberal fundraising dinner early in the new year.

### Sign off

Declaring oneself a nuclear free zone is harder than it sounds. South Yorkshire County Council tried to do it by setting aside £1,980 for signs on its boundary roads. Of 24 sites, six had to be scrapped because they were on Department of Transport land, and two still await planning permission from the Peak District National Park. In September 16 signs were erected, but three have since been vandalized and six stolen, leaving just seven. Come the holocaust, I fear this People's Republic will be engulfed with the rest of us.

### Export stamp

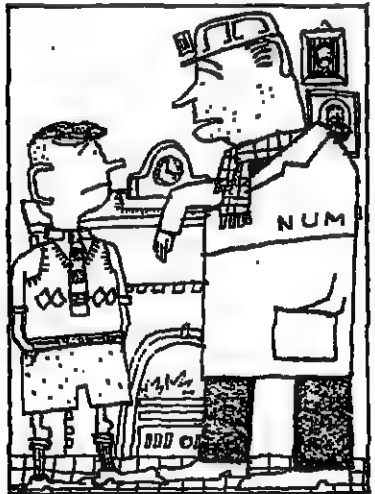
Cornish ex-Liberal and supermarket millionaire Mike Robertson is offering pensioners a £2 pre-Christmas discount at his stores on one day next month. There is, of course, a political twist. To prevent pensioners going round twice, their pension books will be stamped with the message: "Don't import coal: export Arthur Scargill."

● Tony Banks, Newham's left-wing MP, has found a role more suited to his theatrical nature. He is to star in his constituency Labour Party pantomime next month - as Comrade Charming.

### Failing light

Poor John Selwyn Gummer. It is hard to avoid the conclusion that he was sent to the pulpit to mount the Government's attack on the bishops last night as punishment for yet another faux pas last week. On Thursday, as Mrs Thatcher addressed the Conservative National Union executive committee, he slipped in late and took a place at the back. Slowly he sank down in his seat - unaware that his head was in contact with the dimmer switch and plunged the room into darkness. When the light was restored the Prime Minister, before representatives of all the party's main organizations, rebuked her party chairman for slouching and told him to sit up straight.

BARRY FANTONI



"Thy grandfather and his father were all pickets, lad. Picketing is in thy blood".

### Bad sport

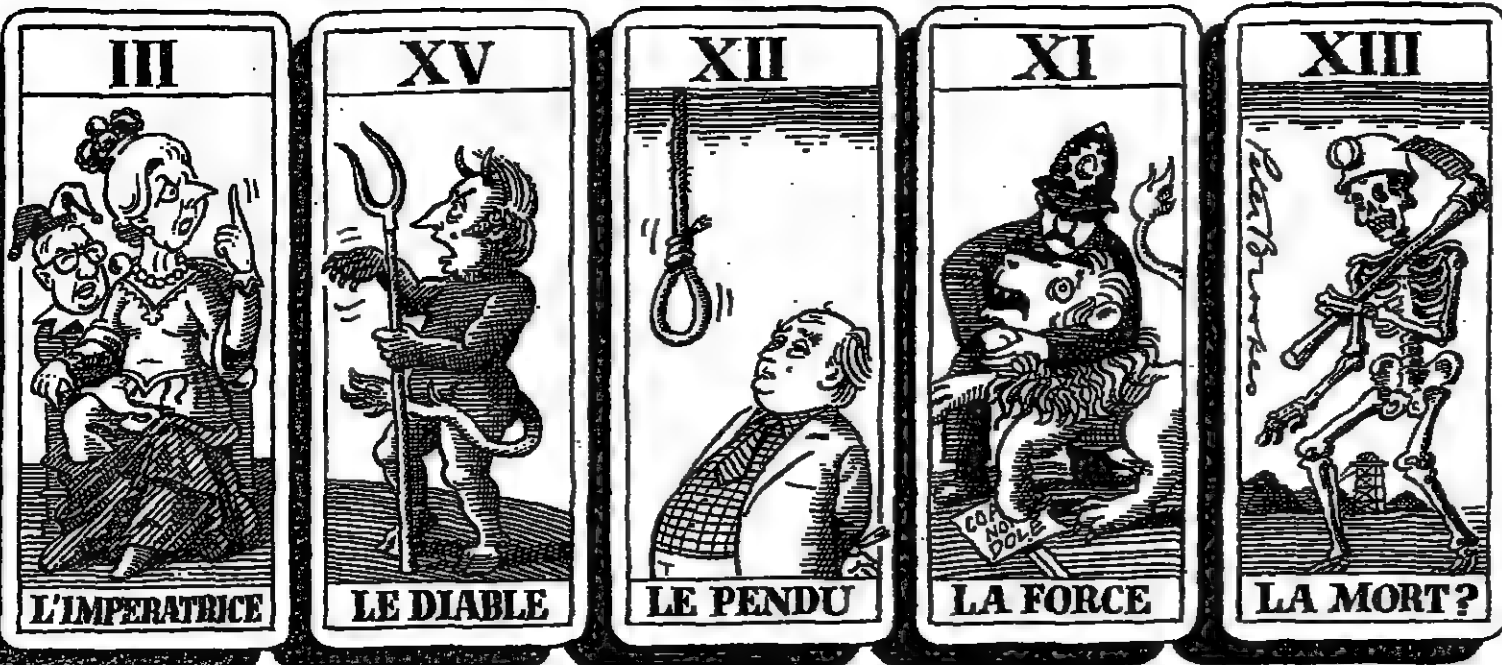
One thousand Social Democrats and 500 pressmen will not be spending £250,000 in five days in Bath next autumn. Nor will they bring it invaluable publicity. The Spa and Recreation Committee of Bath's Tourist-controlled council evidently considers it more important that citizens should be able to swim as normal. That, at least, is the reason the committee has just given for refusing the SDP permission to hold its annual conference in the city's only sports centre, but the SDP thinks otherwise. "It's extraordinary", rages a spokeswoman. "It's the first time we know of that a national political party has been refused a venue. They are playing petty party politics." Unless the full council overturns the decision next month, with the help of equally rate local trade associations the SDP will be taking its custom elsewhere - to Torquay.

### Prize romance

If things do not pick up, the high-powered judges for next year's Betty Trask Award for romantic fiction, whom I unmasked last week, will hardly be needed. So far the £17,500 prize money has attracted but one entrant. At least this will allow Judge Anthony Hearn, for years The Standard's literary editor and now its wine correspondent, to concentrate on vines rather than lines. It is of course Anthony Curtis now, as I suggested, Mr Hearn, who is the Financial Times's book man.

## When the strike is over: what market for coal, what investment for the pits?

Gerald Manners and Colin Robinson provide some ominous predictions



## Two fat years - then comes the lean future

At the start of the coal strike the Government wrote a blank cheque to cover the costs of a technically bankrupt NCB. As the drift back to work gathers pace, the taxpayer's financial commitment to coal must be redefined at the earliest opportunity.

An immediate contrast can be seen between the short and long-term prospects. For most of the first two years after the strike, the demand for coal in Britain will probably be considerably in excess of British supplies, especially if the CEBG seeks to revise its "merit order" to burn as much lower-cost coal as possible and minimize its oil bills.

But it could be 18 months or two years before British production - now about 35 million tonnes can meet that demand. Damage in the mines will have to be repaired. There could be shortages of machinery and spare parts and delays in approval for major works. The morale of the workforce will be low, each striking miner having lost thousands of pounds which he will never recover. There will be a need to redeploy some of the industry's labour force.

Apart from immediate needs, there is the question of coal stocks. Should they be built up to a commercially prudent level of perhaps 25 million tonnes, or should they be brought up to a size that would afford security against a resumption of NUM strike action? To increase stocks to, say, 40 million tonnes (compared with the 52 million tonnes held before the strike) would further widen the gap between demand and supply.

In the aftermath of the strike, therefore, coal imports must not only be maintained but almost certainly increased. In 1983 Britain imported 4 million tonnes (the

highest level of imports in recent years was 7.3 million tonnes in 1980). At the Vale of Belvoir inquiry the CEBG said the maximum capacity of the ports it could use for imports was 12 million tonnes a year; to that should be added the capacity of the many small ports that have been used during the strike, and the surplus capacity at the steelworks at Port Talbot, Hunterston, Redcar and Immingham.

Is the country's coal import capacity adequate for the post-strike period? Should coal users now be planning to improve it? And are the facilities for the onward movement by rail, barge and lorry adequate? A decision to rebuild stocks to at least 40 million tonnes, and to reduce the generating boards' oil burn as quickly as possible, for balance of payments reasons if no other, could lead to the need to import 45 or 50 million tonnes of coal during the first year after the strike.

In contrast, unless there is either an unexpectedly large loss of coal mining capacity during the strike, or a rapid increase in the rate of pit closures, British coal supplies will massively outstrip demand by the end of the decade. Deep-mine and open-pit coal capacity was about 120 million tonnes a year before the

strike. If the strike leads to the permanent loss of 4 million tonnes a year and a further 2 million tonnes are lost each year through "natural exhaustion", by 1990 106 million tonnes of pre-strike capacity could remain.

However, by then a further 24 million tonnes of new capacity in existing and new pits should be available, bringing total capacity to about 130 million tonnes.

But in 1990, even assuming no net imports, demand is unlikely to exceed 105 million tonnes and it could well be less than 100 million. By that year, although the CEBG will be burning more coal at the enlarged Drax power station, two further nuclear plants (Heysham B and Torness) should be operational. It is just possible that the CEBG will have converted its Isle of Grain power station to burn coal by then, but that coal must almost certainly be imported to reduce the risks of supply interruption.

The industrial market for coal will have grown only slowly, if at all, by 1990 with the impetus to convert boilers to coal-firing (with government assistance) now lost because of the strike. Indeed, some existing industrial users of coal might turn permanently to imports for part if not all of their needs, resulting in a

surplus of coal mining capacity even greater than the 25 or 30 million tonnes that will arise without an accelerated programme of mine closures in the late 1980s.

Plans must now be made, therefore, to bring supply and demand for British coal into better balance by 1990. It will not be easy. It could well have been made unduly complicated by the recent Nacods settlement which stresses the importance of five-year development plans. The new closure procedure is more cumbersome than that which existed before the strike.

How can the industry accelerate the rate of closures? Can it for social if not economic reasons, beneficially freeze some of its new investments? How can these market prospects be squared with both the NCB's and the Government's essential bullishness about the future of the British coal industry?

Above all, it is crucial that the adjustment needed in the late 1980s should not be delayed in the hope or the presence of expanding coal markets in the 1990s. The strike must have made the electrical supply industry more than ever determined to maintain and, if possible, expand nuclear production. It is also clear that the gas industry is likely to have available low-priced supplies well into, and possibly throughout, the 1990s.

The potential for greater energy conservation is only now dawning on many users, and any successes of the Energy Efficiency Office will imply lower sales of coal and oil alike. On present evidence, therefore, if the coal industry can hold on to a market of about 100 million tonnes throughout the 1990s, it will be doing very well indeed.

Gerald Manners is Professor of Geography at University College London.

## Tough fight ahead for state cash

Unless the totalitarian view is accepted that British consumers should be forced to buy British coal, or taxpayers coerced into subsidizing it, public policy for the industry should start from a plausible view of its prospects.

There are, of course, big variations in costs across British coalfields; indeed the present dispute has revealed some of the differences of interest which exist between low-cost and high-cost areas. Many pits in the central coalfields - those now working and considerable parts of Yorkshire and Derbyshire - should be able to survive in any likely conditions. Despite comparatively high pithead costs, proximity to power stations and distance from the coast give them a transport cost advantage over imports. But as the 1983 Monopolies Commission report showed, many pits are nowhere near to covering their accounting costs.

In such circumstances, should the market simply be allowed to run? Or should governments maintain or increase coal protection? If there are external benefits which are not incorporated in the market price of coal, then that price underestimates the value of coal to British society. We might perhaps find that by giving values to those benefits and adding them to the site revenues received by the NCB, pits which are apparently "uneconomic" on the basis of accounting costs are not uneconomic at all.

An argument frequently used is that production of indigenous fuels (in comparison with the alternative

of fuel imports) offers society extra security of supply. If that is true, indigenous production merits support (for instance, in the form of import controls, taxes on competing fuels or subsidies). But the argument clearly is not true for British coal. Serious interruptions of coal supplies, consequent on industrial action, occurred in the winters of 1971-72, 1973-74 and, most severe of all, in the present dispute. There have been many other threats to disrupt supplies, notably in February 1981 when the government, under strike threat, quickly gave the NUM and the NCB what they asked.

The evidence points to British coal as our most insecure source of fuel and one might reasonably argue that its price should be debited with a social insecurity cost rather than credited with a social benefit. Indeed, it is probably because British coal has received so much protection, in the shape of import restrictions and other forms of aid, that it is so subject to disruption (actual and threatened).

Similar arguments apply to a second possible external benefit sometimes attributed to indigenous fuel production - that it protects against unexpected, damaging increases in future imported energy prices. Provided the community is prepared to pay the necessary premium and the probability of the price increases seems sufficiently high, there is a case for taking out such insurance. But the premium will include not only the direct costs of support but also the monopoly-

enhancing effect on indigenous producers. If home producers are already in a powerful position and the probability of big future increases in import prices seems relatively low, the insurance is of doubtful value; it may inflict higher prices on the community in the near term instead of merely running the risk of higher prices in the long run.

A third possible benefit is that a coal support policy might increase employment. If the result of displacing miners is directly or indirectly, to increase unemployment, the cost of keeping them employed is lower than the NCB's accounting costs. From a social standpoint, therefore, their wages could be counted as zero or some low figure when assessing the true costs of producing coal. At a time of high unemployment, this argument has some substance, although it is less clearcut than its advocates would have us believe. It is not, for instance, obvious why miners should be singled out for special treatment when workers are being displaced from other occupations too.

However, if there is no clearcut case for supporting production, there is a clear responsibility on social grounds for government to assist displaced miners and demoralized mining communities to adjust to a gradually declining market for British coal in which advances in technology reduce the number of jobs.

There are special problems with the coal industry's employees. First, they were misled about their future.

Second, the most vulnerable are in still tight-knit communities in areas of already high unemployment. It is natural enough that they should protest when a large corporation in London takes apparently impersonal decisions that their places of work should close, even though compulsory redundancies are avoided and severance terms are generous.

Since attempts to preserve jobs in marginal mines can only be a stop-gap, more imaginative solutions are required, as they are for the unemployed in general. There is little point in arguing over the minutiae of documents so fundamentally misguiding as the Plan for Coal and Coal for the Future.

Some decentralization of decision-making is needed so that local communities feel more involved in decisions which fundamentally affect them. "Uneconomic" pits could, for instance, be handed over to local workers (with some government transitional aid) so that they could make such decisions as how much to invest and what wages to pay: conceivably some of them might then become "economic".

In other words, the emphasis of government aid to mining should switch from supporting production - in effect, treating part of the NCB's activities as a social service and thus confusing the Board's objectives - to assisting local communities in the search for jobs with better long-run prospects.

Colin Robinson is professor of economics at the University of Surrey.

## Romania: who will follow the conductor?

debate there will be calls for tighter discipline, for greater efficiency, greater productivity. The crescendo has already been programmed: hosannas for the President.

But the congress concentrates the mind. Who can succeed Ceausescu? Although he still has a good ten-year edge on the aging leaders of the Soviet Union, Hungary, Bulgaria and Czechoslovakia, Romania poses the knottiest problem of succession in Eastern Europe.

Consider, for example what happens when a small boy (or even an old man) spots that the emperor has no clothes. At the last congress, 1979, the 84-year-old former politician was given a place on the congress praesidium, a mark of respect for his age and for his pre-war membership of the Communist Party. But when he got up to speak he criticized Ceausescu for "undemocratic methods" of leadership and made it clear that he would have no part in the reelection of the Conducator. The remaining 2,499 delegates threw a collective tantrum. He was stripped of his status as a delegate, bitterly denounced and shouted at and spat upon in the street.

Pirulescu, of course, was right on the mark. Although the West

approves of Ceausescu's calculated distance from Moscow and his deft foreign policy, his rule is tough, undemocratic, intolerant of criticism and inefficient. It is not, as many claim, Stalinist rule, but it leans heavily on tribal leadership supported by an active police force, the Securitate. All contacts with foreigners have to be reported to the police, even casual encounters in railway compartments or buses.

There are 3.4 million members of the Communist Party, but the structure of power under the Ceausescu clan means that in effect there are three tiers of influence. The first circle is the Ceausescu family itself. Some 50 relatives of the leader occupy important posts.

The second circle contains those who owe their promotion directly to family patronage and reflect the strengths and weaknesses of the patrons. The protégés of young Nicu, son of Nicolae, are often dilettantish and more concerned with fast cars than the leading role of the party. The protégés of General Ilie Ceausescu, Deputy Defence Minister, are often talented men.

The third circle of power is represented by the rank and file, many of whom will be at today's congress

It is the third circle that must wait its turn for power. If Ceausescu can persuade Moscow that there can be a dynastic succession then his wife (and full political member) Elena seems well equipped for the job at least in the short term.

But the problem with making a family party in a party is that normal family disagreements become party rifts. There is much enmity in the Ceausescu family that would spill out and over should the Conducator lose his grip.

The succession, most Romanians-watchers seem to agree, will be determined by performance. The catalogue of missed economic targets, the parade of hopelessly unrealistic goals set in the document to be presented this week, the fact (as even the Polish communist daily Trybuna Ludu noted) that the standard of living will not improve for several years - all this creates not only public dissatisfaction but frustration in the bureaucratic elite.

The name Ceausescu derives from the Romanian word for doorkeeper or messenger. At this week's congress, Ceausescu will play the role of messenger, preaching the radiant (but eternally postponed) future to the masses. But in reality, he is closer to being a doorkeeper, blocking intruders from the family mansion. He is beginning to feel the draught.

Roger Boyes

Anne Sofer

## When the pits are just a peepshow

The wife of a striking miner addressed the GLC women's committee the other week. It was a unique occasion in many senses. First, it was the first time I can remember that anyone was introduced to the committee in her role as a wife. Admittedly, some of the members myself included, are wives, but the atmosphere of the committee is such that it is not a matter we readily allude to.

Second, it was the only time so far that a speech has been loudly and apparently spontaneously applauded and a collection taken there and then. (It produced more than £40). And thirdly, we were treated to what was for the most part a refreshingly direct and down-to-earth North Country style of address ("right from heart, straight from shoulder", as she put it). What a relief from our London whine. It was only towards the end, when some phrases about the "capitalist press" and "links with Greenham women" crept in, that it began to sound dreadfully familiar.

She told us how, until the strike started, she had been a "proper little housewife", but that now she was travelling the country addressing meetings; how the strikers were determined to keep up the struggle; how working miners were intimidating striking miners as well as vice versa; and how she felt that north and south were too divided. In fact, apart from the parroted slogans, she was obviously a spirited and genuine person.

But, as I warmed to the woman, I found myself cooling towards the majority of the almost entirely female audience. As soon as the item was called and the chair asked for the committee's agreement to hear our visitor, the Conservative spokeswoman suggested that a working miner's wife be invited as well. Immediately a hissing and murmuring went up. There were shouts of "No" and "Scab, scab".

A cooped sister from Barnet raised a point of order: the term "working miner", she submitted, was incorrect - the proper description was "scabbing miner". Roars of approval and stamping of feet.

Much has been made on the left of the role of women in this mining dispute. Women have cast off their domestic subjugation and are mounting speaking tours all over the country, while their husbands look after the children. They are organizing and campaigning and taking their place on the picket line. All this causes wild feminist excitement.

But there is something very odd about it all. In feminist terms, what are they fighting to defend? The "communities" for which they profess to care so passionately, are single-industry, male-dominated traditional communities where the only job with any standing is one of the very few in the country still

completely closed to women. Nobody, as far as I know, has suggested that the Shaftesbury reforms of 1842 should be revoked and women go back down the mines again.

If Arthur Scargill wins, and all the pits stay open, the daughters of those women will grow up in communities where openings for women will be rare indeed. For most of them, unless they leave, the major role will be as wives and mothers. Many people - maybe many miners and even their wives - may think that such a role has much to commend it, but that is certainly not a view shared by the women's committee.

There is also some confusion about the image of mining itself. In novels such as *How Green Was My Valley* parents went to any lengths to get their sons out of such a dirty and dangerous job: now the miners' leaders want it guaranteed to their sons, if not daughters, in perpetuity.

The only argument that makes sense - and it is a powerful one - is that communities should be enabled to stay together. But new jobs would meet the case just as well, if not better. At least the newer industries would be cleaner, and give women a better chance. It is a thousand pities that the idea of a job-creating NCB enterprise company, proposed originally by David Owen, was not pursued from the beginning with vigour and conviction.

But the whole idea of "saving the communities" is shot through with the bitterest of ironies when one considers how divided and embattled some of the communities are, as a result of the strike. Already people are talking of the need for some sort of partition of the coalfields after the strike has ended - working miners to one village, striking miners to another.

It is this reality which made the scene at the women's committee so distasteful. The woman who spoke there would have to return to her community and, quite possibly, live there for the rest of her life; with families divided, men sworn to get their revenge, and little children learning to shout "scab" at their neighbours. It is not going to be easy for her whatever the outcome of the strike, and every speech Arthur Scargill makes guarantees that it will be more difficult. But he, at least, is from the Yorkshire mines, and the industry is his life's work. The feminists in County Hall, with their voyeuristic incitement to "perpetual struggle", have no such excuse.

When, in a year or two's time, the woman from the pit village is trying to pick up the pieces of a shattered community's life, they will have forgotten her. Some other fashionable cause will, by then, be moving them to their deaths.

The author is SDP member of the GLC/ILEA for St Pancras North.

Howard Jacobson

## Outfoxed by those crocodile tears

When Australian politicians mean to wound one another in earnest they employ what anyone who did English Lit to O-level will remember as "animal imagery", that beasty repository of metaphors and allusions into which Shakespeare's more demented tragic heroes dip the moment they lose their instinctive reverence for life. Australian politicians make frequent raids upon this repository no matter what the climate or the cause: but during the run-up to an election they descend upon it like - well, like wolves.

Moreover, if elected, representatives for Merriwally or Yarrangilly can trade references with the best of them to the toad, the termite, the bandicoot and the gecko, they know no equal when it comes to the common or garden, street or household dog.

The dog is a study Australian parliamentarians have made their very own. Lear, Macbeth, and Timon together could not hope to rival the honourable Member for Tumbarrumba, when he's roused, for first-hand knowledge of the morals of the mongrel, or for intimate acquaintance with the appalling habits of the dingo and the hound.

All of which goes to show that when, a few weeks ago, the Liberal opposition leader, Mr Peacock, charged the Prime Minister, Mr Hawke, with being "a little crook", he fell a long way short of meaning anything derogatory. "Little crook" in Australia is very nearly an endearment. It drops just this side of ingratitude. Call a bloke in Parramatta a "little crook" and he'll shout you a beer. Call him a "little bastard" and you're mates for life.

If Mr Peacock had really been spoiling for a fight he would not have omitted some fleeting mention of a whipper, or a lurcher or a tyke. "A little borkin' crook" would have hit the Prime Minister where it's known to hurt. "A winging wire-hair springer" would have put the cat among the pigeons.

So, since Mr Peacock was only being friendly, I think we have to see Mr Hawke's ensuing tears, all other considerations apart, as at the very least timely. Certainly few Hawke-watchers could have been in any doubt that their flow presaged an early election. Elections in all countries end in lamentation - if not for one or other of the parties, then for the people - but in Australia they begin tearfully. We cry in the bars as an invariably reliable guide to electoral fidgets; and no one knows better than Mr Hawke that he who cries first loses last.

Here, of course, is the secret of his enormous popularity: he is the best weper Australia has had in years: not only the most prolific but the most instantaneous. Whisper the word "Israel" in Mr Hawke's

hearing at 11.50 and he'll have filled a couple of buckets by noon. And in a country as emotional as Australia, a capacity to weep openly and at will is an even more indispensable qualification for a status of tragic grandeur than a gift for animal imagery.

When I speak of Australia's emotionalism I am not alluding slyly to Sydney's now unchallenged status as the "gay" capital of the Southern Hemisphere, or the country's disproportionately high production rate of crusading journalists. These are merely the passing expressions of a much deeper and more abiding national fervency - that of male bonding, sometimes referred to, no restrictions, and of course, no women. One solitary tear from the Prime Minister's Hawkeye and every man in Australia is reminded of that never-never land of uncomplicated camaraderie.

Just how out of touch is Mr Peacock with his countrymen's emotional needs can be gauged by the campaign theme which his party has dreamed up: "Stand up for the family". The family? In Australia? Sure enough, a man might see in his son an image of the boy he wishes he still was, but for the idea of family life, for the principle of home, hearth and or a wife, no real Australian man can give a monkey's.

Even in adultery passion flickers only fitfully, and the really moving drama is played out between the men. It scarcely matters whether the rapprochement is brought about by the husband or the lover knocking at the other's door at three in the morning clutching a six-pack; what is certain is that they will be in each other's arms by dawn, and the wife - who was only ever incidentally relevant anyway - will have been long forgotten.

Lacking flair for animal imagery, and plagued by a dry eye, Mr Peacock looks unlikely to persuade the electorate to stand up for the family. Mr Hawke, on the other hand, continues to be the very bloke all Australians are simultaneously ashamed and proud to be. There will be more tears yet. All in all it promises to be a wet and joyous summer for Labor, and one bitch of an election for the Liberals.





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## IRELAND'S TABOO

Since the earliest days of the Irish State a constant principle of its policy of neutrality has been, as Mr Charles Haughey the opposition leader stated at the opening of the New Ireland Forum, "that Ireland would never allow her territory to be used as a base for an attack on Britain". Presumably Mr Haughey had in mind the denial of Irish territory to some hostile power but as Mrs Thatcher sits down today with the Taoiseach, Dr Garret FitzGerald, she could be forgiven for wondering how Irish politicians can square such a declaration with the reality of the Brighton bomb and the IRA's stated intention to continue its campaign of attempted assassination against members of the British Government.

In the event the New Ireland Forum was unable to address itself to the question of Irish neutrality. It is too sensitive an issue at the level of political symbolism, even though it is hardly practical politics. It will certainly not be on today's agenda since, though Irish ministers had been hoping for a more fulsome British response to the New Ireland Forum than they have received, they recognize that expectations must be lowered.

Dr FitzGerald will make it clear that his government is not interested in pursuing the case for Irish unification, as suggested in some way or other by the Forum. He wants to explore procedures for reducing that sense of alienation with Northern Irish institutions which he believes to be rotting away in the nationalist community and which, without control, could result in that community removing its support for the constitutional leadership of the SDLP in favour of the violent path espoused by Sinn Féin.

Dr FitzGerald wants Mrs Thatcher to agree to practical measures which will sustain the SDLP while at the same time enabling it to play a fuller part in the existing Northern Ireland Assembly. Whatever measures he has in mind are all likely to suffer from Ireland's ambivalence between the practicalities of partition and the aspirations of unification.

However, for all that the question of Irish neutrality was omitted from the New Ireland Forum, it still conditions the atmosphere in which British-Irish cooperation in security can be assessed. It must also condition the way in which each of

Ireland's two communities looks at the other. The symbolism of Irish neutrality in the Republic springs from its need to define a separateness from Britain, the very essence of which would deter Unionists from wanting to have any involvement in an Irish state based on such an attitude.

It is obviously not Britain's job to force the Irish to face up more squarely to the ambiguities of their neutrality. It is a symbolic policy with little practical validity. The capacity of Ireland to give physical meaning to its policy of neutrality compares unfavourably with any other of the more professional neutrals of Europe.

However, it takes only one look at the map to see that it is a legitimate British strategic interest, as it would be one for Nato as a whole, for Ireland not just to be able to deny its territory or its coastal waters to a hostile power (which it certainly could not do on its own at present) but to preserve sufficient political stability to prevent it becoming the base for terrorist attacks directed at any member of the Alliance.

To that Irish ministers would reply that the only threat to the stability of the Republic comes from British policies in the north. That is why they claim to have a legitimate, indeed a vital, interest in measures to mitigate the alienation of the nationalists which they believe otherwise would lead to a growth of terrorism which presents a greater threat to the Irish state than it does to Britain.

What we learn from Irish attitudes of neutrality is that neither governments nor people want to face up to the discipline of a coherent security policy. Traditionally the Irish have expected their security to be looked after by somebody else, so it is not altogether surprising that they should now argue that the threat posed to them by the IRA must be countered by British action.

Their economic relationship with the Nato countries is higher and their practical defence outlays lower than any European neutral and all the small countries within Nato. It is obvious which side they would be on in a great contest but they do not think or believe that it is necessary in the meantime to involve themselves in the practicalities of security policy. Ireland has not bothered to maintain the physical capacity to carry out its

obligations as a neutral, far less as a potential ally.

The easy response from Irish ministers is that partition precludes any such alliances. However, as one British observer wrote more than 30 years ago: "Partition is a convenient barrier behind which Ireland shelters from the cold winds of the outside world." There are robust voices within the Republic, like Professor John Kelly, now a back-bencher, who suggests that self-respect should lead Ireland to review its policy of neutrality since the entire western world is taking part in an alliance from which Ireland could not help but benefit; but those voices are few.

Irish neutrality may be emotionally comforting but it leads to the fallacy that the adoption of a neutral stance is all that is necessary to meet the requirements of security. It may have political value in the party debate but it has little practical value on the ground and there are other side effects which are decidedly less valuable.

The first is on opinion in Northern Ireland. Those Irish politicians who hope to persuade Unionists of the attraction of Irish unification seem to be unaware of how unattractive such a state would be with no sense of alliance with Britain or Nato, an aversion to the royal connexion and even a distaste for the Commonwealth.

Secondly, although Irish neutrality is more symbolic than real, the fact that Irish ministers argue that the threat to the Republic can only be met by British policies seriously undermines the singularity of their position. If they are genuinely interested in joint security they need to reassure British ministers that they are serious about security as a whole and that means in a wider context.

That leads thirdly to the question of Irish political leadership over the years. There is no sign that the Dublin political establishment has any interest in tackling the taboo of Irish neutrality. It was left out of the New Ireland Forum and it remains simply a useful myth with which to conduct the party debate rather than to provide any coherent defence policy for the Republic. This persistent lack of realism and practicality about security can only inhibit the long-term development of that "totality of relationships" between these islands in which Ireland's historic difficulties may eventually disappear.

## IRAQ'S MATURITY

Mr Richard Luce, Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, flies to Iraq today for a four-day visit. It would be nice to think that it was in order not to miss Mr Luce that Mr Tariq Aziz, the Iraqi foreign minister, has put off his visit to Washington until next week. But other, weightier reasons have been suggested for this, such as a last-minute dispute over the ownership of the former US embassy in Baghdad or, perhaps no less plausibly, the determination of President Reagan to take an eight-day Thanksgiving-week vacation.

Those reasons must be assumed to be weightier because, while Iraq's rulers are certainly not indifferent to the state of their relations with Britain, they undoubtedly – and understandably – attach greater importance to the correct handling of their relationship with the United States. Mr Aziz's visit to Washington, has been long and carefully prepared, and is expected to be the occasion of a formal announcement that diplomatic relations between the two countries are being resumed.

Those relations were broken off as long ago as 1967, in protest against America's real or imagined role in the Israeli victory. Egypt and Syria, much more directly involved, took the same action at the time but restored relations promptly after recovering their self-respect in the war of 1973.

Baghdad's anti-American rhetoric was sustained throughout the 1970s, but accompanied by a steady growth in US-Iraqi trade. Iraq, anxious to get value for petrodollars in the rush to develop its economy, saw no ideological reason to deny itself access to American goods and services. At the same time its relations with the Soviet Union cooled. Moscow had less to offer than the West for civilian development, and was suspected of fomenting communist plots in the Iraqi armed forces. Moreover President Saddam, who hoped to assume the presidency of the Non-Aligned Movement in 1982, seems to have been aware – unlike President Castro, for instance – that having a friendship treaty with one superpower and no official relations at all with the other is not a genuinely non-aligned posture.

A decision in principle to restore relations was therefore taken in 1980, Mr Saddam now tells us, but shelved because of the outbreak of war with Iran – presumably to avoid giving colour to Iranian accusations that Iraq was acting as a cat's paw of "imperialist" powers. Yet that same war made Iraq acutely dependent on the support of pro-Western Arab states and, initially, caused a further deterioration of its relations with the Soviet Union, for Moscow was then angling for close ties with the revolutionary regime in Tehran. Iraq and the US clearly

had some political as well as economic interests in common, and the "interest sections" that each maintains in the other's capital blossomed into embassies in all but name.

Since then things have changed again. Moscow lost hope of seducing the ayatollahs and blames them for refusing to end the war. Soviet arms supplies to Iraq have resumed on a large scale, while Western support – apart from that of France – has on the whole not lived up to Iraqi expectations. But Iraq's leaders have learnt by now to be wary of too close a dependence on Moscow, and have recovered the self-assurance necessary for a public relationship with Washington. Sharp differences of opinion of course remain, particularly over Israel, but at least these can in future be discussed directly instead of being ventilated only in comminatory communiqués. Mr Aziz's visit to Washington may be reciprocated quite quickly by Mr Shultz going to Baghdad.

It would be good if Sir Geoffrey Howe could follow suit, or even get in first. But, as Mr Luce will certainly make clear, that is hardly possible so long as Iraq insists on holding two British businessmen, guilty at worst of indiscretion, as hostages for the release of an Iraqi citizen who committed a premeditated murder in broad daylight in the heart of London.

If such provision were made, Christian RE could be made more relevant to those children from homes where the Christian faith is accepted. But for all children closer links between home and school might be fostered if alternative courses are provided. Yours faithfully, P. J. ROCHFORD, Ampleforth Abbey, York.

### Out for a duck

From Mrs Mary Alker  
Sir, Spawning migratory loads of Britain are to have their own road signs next year (report, November 10). And about time too! Here at Lancaster University we look after our ducks in a big way, and if the loads had been resident in our lake they would have qualified for their very own sign long ago.

Our wild ducks and geese presented similar problems some years ago when they insisted on waddling across the access road in front of buses and other vehicles. We were bored with the constant supply of duck pâté in the refectories and brewers' lories in the lake.

When the public transport services declared the university road a "no-go area" positive action was required. And so the Lancaster ducks have their very own sign: a perky-looking fellow at full waddle in silhouette on a warning triangle. This is fine until some joker borrows the sign for a prank and then it's back to the pâté, watered beer and no transport on campus! Yours sincerely, M. ALKER, Secretary, Institute for English Language Education, University of Lancaster, Bowland College, Lancaster.

## Cost of withdrawal from Unesco

From Professor J. D. Fage  
Sir, I think that I may claim to be at least as experienced in the affairs of Unesco as your correspondent, Professor Julius Gould (November 10). I have been a member of the UK National Commission for Unesco since 1967, and chairman of its Culture Advisory Committee since 1978. I too have been attached to UK delegations to Unesco's biennial General Conferences (and, for that matter, I too have some experience of publishing with Unesco). But I have one advantage over Professor Gould, since I am still a member of the National Commission. I was able to see at first hand something of last month's meeting of Unesco's Executive Board.

One of the most distressing things at this meeting was to see the importance of the member from the United States. Little or no account was taken of what she or her colleagues said, and it was patent that this was because the US had already given its notice of withdrawal.

However it was also apparent that many more member states than ever before were willing to take account of the informed criticisms of Unesco that other western nations, like the UK, were voicing – and have been voicing for many years. It was an ideal moment in which to press for the changes set out in the letter of April 2 to the Director-General from our responsible Minister, Mr Timothy Raison.

Indeed, this letter was virtually adopted as the agenda for a programme of reform which has already begun to make some progress.

If the UK were now to give a year's notice to quit Unesco, and if other western nations were to go with us, this programme would lose its sponsors and must fail. What we need to do at the moment is to stand by the programme of reform that we have launched.

We have not yet lost the campaign, and we should not give notice of withdrawal until, and unless, it is clear that we have.

Yours faithfully, J. D. FAGE, 17 Antringham Gardens, Birmingham, West Midlands, November 11.

From Mr L. Jonathan Cohen, FBA  
Sir, If some countries leave Unesco it is to be hoped that they will set up an alternative channel for routing financial assistance to some of the non-political purposes and organizations that Unesco has regularly assisted.

For example, substantial sums, that originate in countries of very diverse political complexion as part of their regular contributions to Unesco, have long been, in effect, "laundered" through Unesco, in the form of subventions, either for general or for specific purposes, to the International Council of Scientific Unions and its associated family of international scientific unions, commissions and committees.

In the eight years, 1975-1983, that I was concerned in International Council of Scientific Unions activities (including five years on its general committee) was aware of any issue therein that was determined by political considerations.

It would be a pity if innocent beneficiaries had to suffer for any sins that the benefactors may have committed elsewhere.

Yours etc, L. JONATHAN COHEN, The Queen's College, Oxford, November 14.

### The voice of faith

From Mr A. L. Latham-Koenig  
Sir, Clifford Longley rightly deplores ("Liturgy bare as a monk's cell", November 6) the inadequacy of modern English prose as a liturgical medium for expressing deep religious feelings. The reason is simply that modern English, excellent though it is as a means of communication, is much less suitable as a medium of expression.

It is therefore unsatisfactory for prayer, which from a linguistic point of view, lies more within the domain of expression than in that of communication. There, intelligibility becomes less important than other, more subtle spiritual and effective elements. It is almost as if, when man comes into contact with the divine, his language tends to break away from ordinary, colloquial speech. It is also noteworthy that from the earliest times Christians sought prayer words which were far removed in their style and mode of expression from the language of everyday life. It is hardly surprising therefore that Anglicans should be dissatisfied with their new book of common prayer and that many Catholics should still hanker for the Tridentine Mass.

Yours etc, A. L. LATHAM-KOENIG, 11 Bigwood Road, NW11.

### Benefit to Treasury

From Mr Jack Straw, MP for Blackburn (Labour)  
Sir, Local Government Minister, Kenneth Baker, claims (feature, November 14), that "local authorities who take more than their share (of public expenditure) are in effect hijacking funds from other worthwhile programmes and projects".

Mr Baker is wrong. The truth about this Government's Byzantine system of local authority financial control is that the Treasury has a vested interest in local authorities "overspending". The target and penalty system means that for every £1 local authority spending goes up

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Coal dispute fought for wrong causes

From Sir Geoffrey Chandler

Sir, The tragedy of the coal dispute is not only that it is being fought at all, but that it is being fought for the wrong causes. The closure of pits is destructive to the individual communities concerned whether it occurs for reasons of geological exhaustion, which Mr Scargill accepts, or on economic grounds, which the National Coal Board wants. Yet preparation against such eventualities is no part of Mr Scargill's case and the NCB's defence of the "right" to manage – a "right" no experienced manager believes exists – ignores the responsibility to manage in a way that includes care and forethought for those communities which may be damaged, through no fault of their own, in the interests of the whole.

If protection of the national interest, in this case through the avoidance of uncompetitive energy costs, implies damage to communities, then the nation has a duty to protect such communities as well as itself. It is here that the area for negotiation should lie. History will undoubtedly condemn Mr Scargill, the NCB, and the Government for betraying those who are their members, employees, and citizens respectively if they continue to ignore it.

Yours faithfully, GEOFFREY CHANDLER, 57 Blackheath Park, SE3, November 16.

From Dr David Owen, MP for Devonport (Social Democrat)

Sir, In judging whether or not my suggestion is "naïve" (leader, November 14) about how to apply further pressure for a return to normal working in the coalfields, your readers might be interested, since you purport to be a paper of record, in what I said.

While welcoming the continued return to work, I warned against the danger of just waiting for miners to return which could take many months and argued for positive action on the NCB's part to give a further incentive to normal working. I drew attention to the fact that the working miners had not accepted

the latest NCB pay offer and were still abiding by the overtime ban introduced before the strike.

I suggested in any regions where the majority of miners were working, it should be possible to open pay negotiations with the working miners on productivity bonuses and other matters which could, with advantage to the industry, form part of a new move towards greater decentralisation and wage bargaining and if this could be agreed locally in return for a lifting of the overtime ban, it would be of considerable benefit to the NCB and the nation.

This would not be designed to create an alternative union to the NUM, as happened with Spencerism in the 1920s in Nottingham, but it would be designed to allow the working miner to substantially increase his take-home pay in return for markedly improved coal output and would be a sign that once the strike was over, the NCB would move further towards a regionally based decentralised industry.

This would be difficult to achieve, but it is not naïve to suggest that it should be attempted. This damaging dispute could have been shortened much earlier if the SDP's proposals for a NCB Industries Ltd, suggested in March, had been enthusiastically implemented. If BSC had taken civil action over the secondary picketing at Orgrave, as we suggested in May, and if in July when withdrawing the closure of Cortonwood, the NCB had put a final package on the table instead of dribbling out concession after concession in continuous negotiations until the Nacods settlement. You now appear to want the NUM/NCB negotiations to resume to negotiate "for a settlement on the basis of the Coal Board's deal with the deputies". That would be a certain recipe to halt the pressure for a ballot, to halt the pressure for a drift back to work and would remove the one firm position that the NCB has been able to define and which carries public support.

Yours faithfully, DAVID OWEN, House of Commons, November 14.

### Sinking of the Belgrano

From Lord Annan

Sir, You report me (November 15) as calling for a White Paper to resolve the conflict of evidence about the sinking of the Belgrano. This might suggest that I have some sympathy for those who declare that the Government is covering up and attempting to justify a wicked action. I have none whatsoever.

The BBC producer of the television debate on the Belgrano asked me not to give my own views but to summarise the issues and let the audience make their judgement of the arguments put to them by Mr Dalyell and Mr Mates. Had this not been so Mr Dalyell could properly have protested that I could not be impartial since for the past year I have intervened at question time in the House of Lords to counter the interminable line of questions asked by Lord Hailsham of Lundy who puts the worst construction on the sinking.

Resolute as Mr Dalyell's witnesses were, to my mind Mr Mates's cross-examination of them was devastating. Even more devastating, I thought, was Admiral Lord Lewin's exposure as rubbish the contention that the sinking of the Belgrano was an unprovoked attack. It is also now clear that the Peruvian peace proposals were received in London well after the Belgrano was sunk.

I do myself believe that the Government would be well advised to issue a reasoned account after the Select Committee has heard evidence. Some of the inconsistencies are due to the fog of war; some to the excessive zeal of those who draft for ministers' replies designed to give as little information as possible; and some, of course, to the need to protect our sources of intelligence. Such an account would dispose of the issue except for those who are determined whatever the evidence to question the courage and good judgement of the Prime Minister, War Cabinet and Chiefs of Staff.

Yours truly, NOEL ANNAN, 27 West 44th Street, New York City, New York.

### University tuition

From Professor S. J. Pitt

Sir, "Science is the new currency", it is said. This reflects the view that in order to solve their problems every country will need science as never before.

Paradoxically, at this moment, scientific activity in Britain is having to face massive cuts. The contraction of university resources either achieved or planned must amount to about 30 per cent which is equivalent to the shutting down of some 15 of our universities. There is to be a further "concentration" of resources for scientific research, but there is no mechanism for deciding what our strengths and weaknesses are, or what particular areas it would be most beneficial to concentrate on. There is no leadership. The Minister of Education and

Science is no scientist, which may be a handicap.

In the physical, chemical and biological sciences the opportunities are unlimited, but Britain must choose carefully what particular features of science best fit its. Curiosity about all things must be permitted, but not necessarily funded specially. Science is essential to rescue Britain. It needs leadership and needs more funds.

If finding adequate funds is so difficult, why not issue savings bonds for science so that the public can invest in science and the future of Britain? S. JOHN PITT, Microbiology Department, Queen Elizabeth College, University of London, 61-67 Campden Hill Road, W8, November 13.

### Ancient woodlands

From Dr Charles Watkins

Sir, Mr Antony Jarvis (November 6) has brought to our attention the fact that capital transfer tax on the land value of ancient woodland not managed for financial gain may not be deferred, and the harmful effect this state of affairs may have on the management of ancient woodland. Another, and possibly more important, threat to ancient woodland is posed by a loophole in the "proposed guidelines on the management of ancient semi-natural woodlands", which were published in the Forestry Commission's consultative paper, *Broadleaves in Britain*, in May.

These guidelines propose that the Forestry Commission will give all ancient woodlands included in the register currently being prepared by the Nature Conservancy Council special scrutiny when operating its felling control and grant aid procedure.

Implicit in the guidelines, therefore, is the assumption that an owner of necessity will apply to the Forestry Commission for a felling licence when felling trees in an ancient woodland. This is certainly not the case: an owner may fell 30 cu m of timber in any quarter without applying for a licence.

Furthermore, for coppice less than 15 cm in diameter, which is often an important component of ancient woodland, no felling licence is required. Such coppice may therefore be felled, and the woodland converted to agricultural land, without reference to the Forestry Commission.

Unless this loophole is closed, the proposed guidelines will only partially protect this country's important ancient woodlands.

Yours faithfully, CHARLES WATKINS, University of Exeter, Mardon Hall, Streatham Drive, Exeter.

## Selling justice as a commodity

From Mr Robert MacLennan, MP for Caithness and Sutherland (Social Democrat)

Sir, The publication, last week, of the full text of Sir John Donaldson's recent address to the Law Society has heightened the concern felt by many at the earlier reports of his words.

John suggests, as a fundamental reform, that civil justice should be wholly financed by both parties; though some individuals would receive state-funded assistance. The assumption implicit in this is that the civil courts are a commercial service provided by the state for parties.

The supposed reform would involve the community abandoning one of its fundamental obligations to its members and selling justice as a commodity. Moreover taken to its logical conclusion it would turn judges into little more than state-nominated arbitrators.

The idea of privatizing civil justice may have its attractions to the present Government. It will, however, appeal most ordinary citizens.

Yours faithfully, ROBERT MACLENNAN, House of Commons, November 13.

### Parole policy

From the Director of the Prison Reform Trust

Sir, The unanimous judgement by the House of Lords on the Home Secretary's parole policy exonerates Mr Brittan of having acted illegally. However, it is difficult to share your view (leader, November 16) that retrospective measures can ever make good law.

Indeed it is interesting that for much of the past year the Home Office maintained the palpable fiction that the transfer of the two life-sentence prisoners from open to closed conditions was not related to Mr Brittan's initial statement to his 1983 party conference.

It is reported (report, November 16) that lawyers for these two prisoners will be writing to the Home Secretary for their release. Their case is a strong one. For if these "exemplary prisoners" whose hopes have been so cruelly dashed do not come within the compass of "exceptional circumstances" of feeling that Mr Brittan is imposing a total and indiscriminate bar will only gather strength.

Yours faithfully, STEPHEN SHAW, Director, Prison Reform Trust, Nutfield Lodge, Regents Park, NW1, November 16.

### War trophy

From Mr Alan Maylin

Sir, Mr Metcalf's letter of November 12 reminded me that in April, 1975, I rummaged through the undergrowth in Dorset Wood, which is situated in the Sittard triangle on the borders of Holland and Germany, and found a rusty German helmet, complete with bullet holes, which had lain there for 30 years, or to be more accurate, since November 1944.

On my sending it to the Dorset Regiment Military Museum the Curator replied, rather grumpily I thought, that he already had one on display, but it would be kept in store.

Yours faithfully, ALAN MAYLIN, 30 Angela Close, Martlesham, Woodbridge, Suffolk, November 12.

### Fully entitled?

From Mr Hugh Peskett

Sir, Replying to Mrs Quest-Ritson (November 7), when the title "Esquire" really meant what it says young gentlemen who were aspirants to knighthood were first shield-bearers, *écuyers*, well before they became knights at maturity.

If we take the combined evidence of Froissart, the Chancery archives, and his own testimony in the Court of Chivalry, Roger, fifth Lord de Clifford, first bore arms as an esquire on an expedition to Flanders which sailed on June 24, 1345, a fortnight before his twelfth birthday on July 10.

This tallies approximately with my father, who began to address me as "Esquire" when I went away to school, aged 13. I do not think that majority or maturity has ever been a prerequisite for being an esquire.

One reason why the usage is tending to disappear is that it is easier for less skilled computer and word-processor operators to use "Mr" and also easier to put the name and address of whoever they are writing to at the top rather than the bottom of the letter.

Yours faithfully, HUGH PESKETT, Research Director, Burke's Peerage, 1 Hayhill, W, November 14.

### Strait-laced

From Mrs Glyn Daniel

Sir, Now that another royal christening is upon us news readers are telling us about Honiton lace. Perhaps before December 21 they will accept the advice of a born-and-bred Devonian that the first two syllables of that elegant town Honiton rhyme with honey, however bonny the baby.

Yours faithfully, RUTH DANIEL, The Flying Stag, 70 Bridge Street, Cambridge, November 16.

### Religious instruction

From The Reverend P. J. Rochford, OSB

Sir, There is a serious omission in your editorial, "RE, RI or RK?" (October 31). There is no mention of parents.

You write: "No one can say for sure what society wants its children to learn or to believe..." But there are parents with children in county schools who have very clear ideas about what they want their children to learn and to believe.

I suggest that such parents have a natural right to have their wishes considered very seriously if there are enough of their children to make up a class. This principle should apply to parents of non-Christian religions and also to those of no particular religion who want their children taught moral education and how to be good citizens.







# THE ARTS

## Keeping Mozart up on his toes

Don Giovanni

I suppose this should certainly earn a beta plus, for trying. The Royal Opera's approach to Mozart in recent years has tended to be musically conservative and dramatically hankrupt: remember John Copley's notorious parody *Curry On* and the inert monument of Götz Friedrich's *Idomeneo*? This Peter Wood production of *Don Giovanni* stands firmly in that line: it was the disaster of the 1981 "Mozart Festival" when it opened, and time has not given it any more point or any more coherence.

But there is a new conductor for this revival: Arnold Östman, musical director at Drottningholm, who won the SWET opera award for his conducting of the Cologne Opera production of *Cimarosa's Il matrimonio segreto* when it was imported to Sadler's Wells. And, though the results of Östman's highly individual and unusual approach to the score are not yet satisfactory, it is good - after so many Mozart revivals in which the unsatisfactory comes from the wrong things being done badly - to be able to report on stimulating ideas which misfire.

There was scarcely a section of the score which sounded as it usually does, and that undoubtedly created problems for the singers. Quick, flowing tempi were the norm: how refreshing to hear "Vedrai carino" swept gently along in one bar (Elizabeth Gale did it with just the right touch of sensuality), to hear Elvira's first aria with crisp dotted rhythms throughout (Barbara Daniels was vivid and incisive, larger than life in Wood's flamboyant characterization), to hear the finale Minuet at a danceable speed, and "Viva la Libertà" as a truly martial acclamation.

It was scarcely surprising that not all the singers sounded equally convinced by this supple, sensitive approach which is light-years away from conventional Mozart performance. Stuart Burrows did not shift an inch from his BBC2 voice (much to the delight of

the house, it must be admitted) while Makvala Kasrashvili's Anna, very impressive at times, sounded less than happy at others among the prevailing uncertainties. Östman is used to conducting a stage at Drottningholm which is only a few feet away from him; his gentle, unforced gestures did not unite the vast Covent Garden stage with ease.

The orchestra, too, were less than happy on this first night, and indeed in the Overture were stunned into chaos by Östman's sweeping, fluid tempo and vague gestures: the power of his treatment of those eerie wind scales did not emerge until the passage returned in the finale. Then they became real gestures rather than mere scales - like the magnificently swept-together chords in the accompanied recitatives for Anna and Elvira, which for once assisted the drama rather than inhibiting it.

Fortunately Thomas Allen in the title role (and to a less characterful extent John Tomlinson as Leporello) succeeded in rising above the problems to create a bold, carefree character, absolutely commanding vocally, who not until the last moment really fears his fate. His encounter with Zerlina had a suppressed eroticism which surely derived from Peter Hall's Glyndebourne staging (in which Allen and Gale both appeared), but the sudden stage silence as their eyes first met (one of several effective pauses in mid-recitative) was presumably Peter Wood's own.

"La ci darem" was very striking: an urgent, swiftly-moving first half, fulfilled in a restrained, almost ethereal consummation. There were many such unusual moments, but few of them really came off: the whole thing was inhibited by the vastness of the arena and by the bulk of William Dudley's ludicrous set, a colosseum in motion, which half the action, dwarfed all the characters, and finally symbolically eats up Giovanni as its arches perform their final dance of death.

Nicholas Kenyon

## Opera out of town

Carmen

Corn Exchange, Ipswich

Nothing daunted by the proliferation of more eminent productions, nor by the arrival in Britain this week of Francesco Rosi's glossy film version, Opera East's travelling troupe of 12 singers and as many players has thrown in its lot with *Carmen*. All stops from Hornchurch of Horsham have something to look forward to in the next month.

They manage to play their cards right by getting Fate to cooperate with them from the start. As a novel means of spreading labour and stoking adrenalin, no one, including the performers themselves, knows just who is to play the four major roles on any one night until the Tarot has been consulted. During the overture, the 12 "gamblers", three to a part, circle the small, tiled stage with its backdrop of skillfully functional hanging ropes, and pick a card at the "Fate" motive. As the chosen four go off to prepare themselves, day

dawns and the soldiers gamble on. It does great things, of course, for ensemble, but it possibly overheats the audience's expectations. In Michael Rennison's necessarily small-scale production, and in the conductor Howard Burrell's musical adaptation, this two-hour *Carmen* is very much a domestic tragedy, scarcely able, in time or space, to sustain the heavy weight of fatalism imposed on it at the beginning. The band plays very much in pumproom style, brightly and stylishly, revealing Bizet's lucid mind rather than his dramatic imagination; the singing is brisk and admirably pointed; the acting and dialogue are brusque and earthy as Richard Bullwinkle's tiny set.

Within this scale, though, there is much to enjoy. On Friday, the cards dealt a musically strong and likeable Don José in Michael Burch, very much the good boy out to defend his cub's honour; and an *enfant terrible* rather than a devil of a *Carmen* in Maxine Symons, as yet slightly underpowered, but vocally sensitive. Jane Gregory and Malcolm Plenty were landed with Micaëla and Escamillo - both as yet concert performances, but carried along vigorously in a production supple enough to accommodate the vocal and dramatic traits which I suspect may well still lie in store.

Hilary Finch

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## Opera and Dance at Covent Garden



Thomas Allen bold and free as Don Giovanni, with Elizabeth Gale's subtly sensuous Zerlina; and Mark Silver (photographed by Dee Conway) coping with the huge physical demands of Apollo in company with Bryony Brind



### BBCSO/Zender Festival Hall/Radio 3

The odd thing about the title of the *Turanguelle-Symphonie* is not, of course, the first word but the second. All the notions that Messiaen derives from his Sanskrit compound, concerning "play of movement" or "rhythm of love", dance in the air while the music is sounding, but a symphony, or even a *symphonie*, the work plainly is not indeed everything it does is very determinedly anti-symphonic. It keeps repeating itself. It turns backwards. It chops bits of itself in pieces and throws them wildly about. It progresses not by steady change but in cycles of accumulation, whether produced in the mind by so much repetition or present in the music as layers are piled up one on another.

All this makes problems for the conductor. We may perceive that what Messiaen has provided is not a coherent picture but a kaleidoscope of fragments, but we have to be persuaded that this particular shake of the bits is the right one. On Friday I thought Hans Zender had done it. He began by making the colours blaze and yet pointing our attention to the main line so often carried by the trombones. Still more important, he geared

### Concert

events to a strong rhythmic line driving through long sections. The processes of change that are worked on rhythmic motifs in the second movement, for instance, made their effect beautifully in passages that normally sound a jumble.

But unfortunately that was about as far as it went. In the third movement there was the threat of a breakdown, and the performance never properly regained its élan. Instead Mr Zender was obliged to substitute insistent pulsation and occasionally mere speed: the finale was a good touch above Messiaen's marking. Presumably there just had not been enough time to rehearse.

The new work was York Höller's *Black Penitence*, which in fact is in his output quite an old work, dating back to 1972-73. The crudity of the taped sounds is therefore not to be blamed on his more recent association with Boulez's computer institute, though even a dozen years ago one might have expected a young composer to make some musical and poetic advance on Varèse's *Déserts*. As for the work's luminous expressionism, I would prefer Höller's *Stehengegengang*, with which I fancy Höller was also familiar.

Paul Griffiths

Robert Eddison (below), 'the actor with the most melodious classical voice since Gielgud', is back in his old haunts, opening in *Phèdre* at the Old Vic on Wednesday

## A lifelong love of theatre

When they come to chronicle the greatest unknights of classical actors of the century, there cannot be a lot of doubt that Robert Eddison will be high on that list. Now 76, and after 54 years in the business, he is back at one of his most regular homes, the Old Vic, playing the tutor in *Phèdre*, a role he last played there for the National Company in 1976. On that occasion (in Tony Harrison's *Phædra Britannica*) the title role was played by Diana Rigg, now it is Glenda Jackson.

"I'd never met her before," such an entertaining lady to rehearse with, and she really lets herself go: Diana Rigg was always more restrained, to suit the Victorian setting of the Harrison version.

Taunted to the last, Mr Eddison will be drawn into no further comparisons: you do not survive for more than half a century as one of the most respected actors around by discussing your fellow-workers with journalists. Indeed Mr Eddison rarely discusses even himself in print because he has hardly ever played in films, seldom worked in the modern theatre and done relatively little major television, he remains a quintessentially stagey figure, known inside the profession as part of its spine and outside it as the actor with the most melodious classical voice since Gielgud.

He was born early in June 1908 in Yokohama, where his father was then a civil engineer. "I went back about ten years ago, when we were playing in Japan with the Derek Jacobi *Hamlet*. It had all changed a bit but I was glad to see they'd kept some of the catalogues advertising my father's business. He and my mother were both in the amateur dramatic club out there which was where I got my first whiff of greasepaint, but then he died and left my mother with four quite young children to get home during the First War. I spent my schooldays at Charterhouse thumping through old magazines looking for pictures of Irving, and although both Forbes Robertson and Max Beerbohm had been at the school, they didn't start up a dramatic society until the year after I left and then I think it was just to annoy me. But sometimes we were allowed to read Shakespeare in the headmaster's study, with his wife



playing all the best parts.

"I was a dutiful son, and mother said the theatre was not a good place to spend one's life even if they had given Irving his knighthood, so I pretended I was going to be a doctor. But I was up at Cambridge with Arthur Marshall and Alistair Cooke and James Mason and we did a lot of acting: the student dramatic society still hadn't admitted women, so I played all the female parts with great abandon. Then when I left the university I went straight into the local theatre company at Cambridge, with Guthrie and Robert Donat, and a year later we all moved to the Westminister."

So by 1932 Eddison had established a London stage career of considerable acclaim: "I think I'm the only actor in the world to have opened both the National and the Barbican. I spoke the prologue in the *Tamburlaine* that launched the Olivier stage, and I was in the *Henry IV* that launched the RSC at the Swan. But all through my career I seem to have had successes which led on to precisely nothing: Guthrie always told me that I lacked push, the will to make myself into a star, and I suppose he was right."

By the end of the 1930s he had done a lot of work at the Westminister and in the Open Air at Regent's Park, and was rehearsing with Coward for *Present Laughter* when war was declared: "That put a sharp end to my Roland Maule. I went off into the Navy, spent five years not seeing the horrors except for about five seconds when we were attacked by kamikazes, and within a month of the end I was back in the John Clements company at the St James's."

### Theatre

Neige Sir Richard Steele

As one of Napoleon's companions wrote on three consecutive days at St Helena, "Ennui... Ennui... Grand ennui." This latest piece by Roman Wein-garten (known here mainly for *Summer*, seen briefly in the West End in 1968) arrives loaded with superlatives from the Paris critics, but despite Chaitie Salaman's devoted Theatre Image-in-Air production it remains a long, long exercise in leaden whimsy that points the yawning gulf between French avant-garde and our own doggedly workaday fringe.

Carol Lawrence's lovely set gives us a decayed nursery in wintry greys and whites, plastered with newspaper and heaped with debris that soon disgorges its three inhabitants. At least, the only ones we can see. Apart from the three sisters imprisoned there in timeless childhood (note the stopped clock) by an apocalyptic symbolic freeze-up outside, there is a flea called Icarus, a dog and cat, and a stove that speaks in accents ranging from German to broad Scots and calls indignantly for a lot of rum.

Such a framework is easily filled with dream-didgerions of childhood games and fantasies.

the family's daily round of meals and bedtime, and barely understood adult activities and talk. But amid all the detail there is no structure and no cumulative effect. Hilary Buras's Mhorde (actually explained as "Merde with an H") crawls about acting as skivvy, constantly rebuffed for an invisible beard. Complimented on her yellow clothes, Nella Marin is a bossy, motherly little body in secretarial black and white who enjoys being tied up and baptized with spit.

And little Guenille (Kathryn Hunter) is a fragile, sad-eyed beauty persistently ignored by the poet who scribbles to an unseen handshaker, like a galvanizing handshake, like Don Giovanni's, from Papa of the hell-hot stove. The performances happily avoid all affectation, but without revealing any poetry latent in such arch pretentiousness.

Anthony Masters

## Intriguing but inconclusive

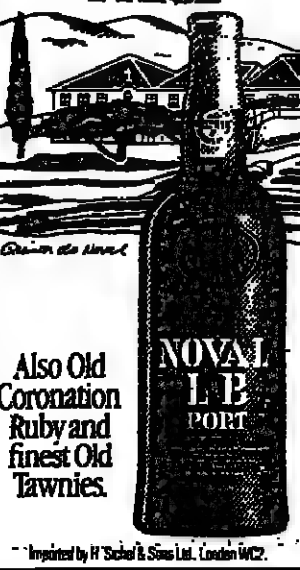
Omnibus (BBC1) described the making of *The Killing Fields*, a film concerned with the activities of two journalists in Cambodia and set during the period when that nation was being taken over by Communist guerrillas - the eponymous fields being their execution ground. It is not a happy story and, since the film is meant to be a "commercial success", we might expect some difficulties in the transition from life to what might loosely be called art. The adaptation seems, however, to have been relatively successful.

The producer, David Puttnam, described the film as one "about a friendship": it was not, he said, "political" and thus might unconsciously have alienated those who are more concerned about Cambodia and its fate. The two journalists themselves no doubt fall into this category, and their reaction at being turned into the glossy material of a feature film was not made clear. But the director, Roland Joffe, was modest and intelligent enough to realize that he was offering only an imprecise version of the "reality" - capturing the "rough inner spirit" of the place and people.

As a result, this was an intriguing if inconclusive documentary. Yet it managed indirectly to suggest something of Cambodia's recent history - and, by the strange alchemy of film, the artificial blood and the rehearsed slaughter did in part evoke the true suffering and the real horror.

Everyman (BBC1) examined another troubled area of the world - Iran and, in particular, the soldiers of Khomeini who gave the programme its title.

### THE STYLE IS VINTAGE BUT NOT THE PRICE



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Sheridan Morley

## Bintley's vision challenges all

Young Apollo

Here is an exciting and unusual new ballet, moving and satisfying in spite of a somewhat underdanced premiere on Saturday. It may be that David Bintley's choreographic imagination has outrun the Royal Ballet's abilities. Will they, can they, catch him up?

*Young Apollo* takes its title, emotional content and part of its music from a work that Benjamin Britten wrote in 1939 under the inspiration of Keats's epic fragment *Hyperion*. It was played in Toronto that August; then the composer (like the poet) put his work away, apparently dissatisfied, and it was not heard in Britain until the 1979 Aldeburgh Festival.

Scored for piano, string quartet, and string orchestra, it is quiet, mysterious music but with a drive and urgency that fire the imagination. Perfect for choreography - except that it lasts only eight minutes. So Bintley asked Gordon Crosse to supplement it with an extension score that develops the musical thought and material of the original into what he describes as a miniature piano concerto in two parts, using a full orchestra and bringing the total length to about half an hour.

The ballet's subject is the young Apollo before he has "died into life" and become immortal. The Covent Garden programme devotes two pages to reprinting the end of the poem, but spectators will look in vain for narrative because Bintley has treated it as abstractly as Victor Paskmore has the three great paintings, one for each section of the music, that form the decor: his first theatre designs.

Glowing a warm, empyrean blue, each with a slightly different pattern of lines and spaces in black and white, linked to an orange-red circle on one of the white side-panels just outside the main area, these backdrops form a marvellous, richly evocative space against which to watch the dancers in their white tunics, some patterned in black.

Bintley uses only one man with 18 women. Beginning with the women in a widely spaced

group across the back, he first brings Bryony Brind forward with the big leg extensions that are to provide her motif, interrupted by poses to establish her as Mnemosyne, goddess of memory, who sees past and future and will encourage Apollo to accept his fate.

Soon the stage is cleared for Apollo's first entry, whirled around like a leaf in a storm with great impetuous leaps that make one wonder how Mark Silver will keep it up. Thereafter he is on stage almost without interruption. In the initial section, it is mainly the 12 women of the ensemble (shamefully, the programme does not name them) who join him in agitated patterns that perhaps suggest the turbulence of unseating the old gods.

Recalled in the next section, Apollo plays first with three tall muses (Deirdre Eyden, Pippa Wyldie, Gail Taphouse, splendidly fresh and malleable) in patterns paying discreet homage to Balanchine's *Apollo*; next with two sprightly ones, Karen Paisley and Ravenna Tucker, and the cauchely tender Mnemosyne. All of them are growing up, learning together how to create divine poetry, which gradually begins to glow through the swift patterns of the final part.

Mark Silver has the looks and manner for Apollo (I can think of nobody better suited in the Royal Ballet) but in an extremely long, demanding role he struggled sometimes vainly with the technical demands and never suggested the radiance. The women, apart from some timing problems, are within arm's reach of achieving Bintley's demands for speed and control. Can they all make the necessary last stretch?

John Percival

● The Royal Ballet is to premiere a new production by Peter Wright of *The Nutcracker*, at Covent Garden on December 20. Gennadi Rozhdestvensky makes his debut with the Royal Ballet as conductor, and designs are by Julia Trevelyan Oman. The company are also reviving *Cinderella* and giving further performances of *Swan Lake* over the Christmas period.

### Television

*The Warriors of Paradise*. It was not a pleasant sight, although of course it is easy to slide into conventional Westerner incomprehension and distaste. But, even taking this into account, it was still difficult to sympathize with the religion of death and the cult of the martyr - both of them symbolized by red water which gushes from a fountain in Tehran as a sign of liberation through blood.

As a picture of contemporary

Peter Ackroyd



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38.00	Wagon	198	+0.1	10.0	10.2
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THE TIMES

## FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

## Putting a perspective on Europe's problems

How much does the American slowdown (of which we may expect further confirmation this week) really matter to us Europeans? After all, we are not supposed to rely on economic locomotives these days. In the human imagery now more fashionable, as the American athlete falters, the European can be expected to snatch up the torch of growth.

Well, that is not a hope that is exactly reinforced by the European Commission. Sure enough, its new annual report does show an acceleration in the combined growth rate of its 10 member economies: but only from 2.2 per cent this year to wait for it - 2.3 per cent in 1985.

At that arithmetic jogging pace, Europe will not even catch up with the flagging United States. Naturally, every American knows why. European economic man, viewed from across the Atlantic, is bureaucratically overweight and industrially flabby.

European, equally naturally, see themselves differently. What's more serious, and most mistaken, is that they see themselves as very different from each other. Of course, the idea of a single "European economy" is a figment of the imagination of those more used to thinking on a continental scale. To Americans, it is easier to imagine Europe as a kind of Disunited States than a conglomeration of disparate and differently run economies.

The differences are important, not least because so many spring from failure of the ideal of a "common market". The new EEC Commission report illustrates this graphically. Trade between the 10 present members of the Community, which by 1974 accounted for 12 per cent of their national incomes, still accounted for only 12.5 per cent last year.

This continued separation wobbled Europe's economies to swing in and out of recession at very different times: thus Britain, which plunged in early and deep, was the first important member to record an increase in output, followed 18 months later by West Germany, then Italy and France. But this superficial difference in economic performance should not disguise underlying similarities. There is a common European disease: a common failure to achieve growth rapid enough to reduce unemployment. Take the Commission's forecast for next year. It may be a little too pessimistic, particularly about German prospects. But the critical point is that the low overall growth rate forecast is not the average of startling national differences: the individual national growth rates range from 1 per cent (in Belgium) to 3 per cent (in Britain).

The same is true of unemployment. The Commission expects it to increase for the twelfth year in a row. And in no major member country is unemployment expected to decline. Almost all are moving closer to the EEC average, for next year, of 11.5 per cent of the labour force.

Of course, there are aspects of this coverage which are encouraging. Excluding new boy Greece, EEC members' inflation rates have been both falling and coming close together; even Italy is expected by the Commission to bring its inflation rate into single figures next year. This has certainly helped the EEC's most obvious success story, its latest attempt at internal exchange rate stability.

It is also a picture which gives Mr Nigel Lawson some satisfaction. For in the (very) recent past and prospective near future, the EEC context sets Britain's economic performance in a comfortable light. Britain's growth rate (allowing for the miners' strike) is better than average, its unemployment not much worse, its inflation score greatly improved - and it is

one of the few European economies in which employment is actually rising.

But all this, as we know, is nothing like good enough - and in danger of getting worse. The cumulative growth of European unemployment means that over a third of its jobless have been on the dole for over a year over 40 per cent in Britain. The EEC's forecast, weak as it is, could be eroded by serious changes in American policy designed to reduce the US trade deficit - on which Germany has been particularly dependent. Although Europe is still below the capacity levels touched in each of the last two economic recoveries, there are clear risks of recession ahead.

For all its fabled powers to remake ice cream or tell us how to package chicken giblets, the Commission has no real possibility of influencing general economic policy-making. But there are delicate proposals in its report, perfectly palatable to the full range of its membership, which merit attention.

Its first, uncontested, proposition is the need to increase the Community's potential for growth, and to change the composition if its growth in favour of greater employment. This requires - as again all members would accept - greater effort to free European labour markets from ancient rigidities, more effective use of Europe's capital, real wage restraint to increase the incentive to employ and simultaneous efforts by government to reduce the tax costs of employment.

But all these are aims that national governments can see, and try to pursue, for themselves. There are two European perspectives. First, and most obviously, the need for greater progress in the creation of a better "infrastructure" to the European market: better communications, meaning everything from decent transport links across the Alps or the Channel to the breaking down of national restrictive practices in telecommunications (to which one could add freer competition in air travel).

But secondly, any Europe-wide analysis has to address the international implications of real wage restraint. Put crudely, is there any point in all EEC countries trying to become more competitive against each other?

The Commission proposes, with some discretion, that all members should attempt to encourage employment by restraining increases in the price of labour, while simultaneously taking steps to ensure Europe does not take itself into a deflationary spiral. Governments, in other words, take steps to ensure that national income continues to grow at a predetermined pace. The beauty of this approach is that it does not fundamentally matter whether they choose to try to do so by cutting interest rates to stimulate private borrowing, by increasing public investment or by cutting taxes; the point is that so long as they all intend to do so, the amount of discretionary action anyone has to risk is correspondingly reduced.

There is one further advantage. This is not the kind of approach to Europe's problems that requires summits or open bargaining between national governments of the kind that seems to paralyse all European progress. Nor does it amount to the kind of international economic management that fell into disrepute after the Bonn summit of 1978. It is simply a framework within which all European governments can attempt to stimulate growth, while actually intensifying their fight against inflation - and with the support that membership of a wider market should necessarily provide.

Sarah Hogg  
Economics Editor

## Banking chiefs resign ahead of Guinness Peat shake-up

By Peter Wilson-Smith, Banking Correspondent

More boardroom departures are on the way at Guinness Peat. Both Mr Albert Frost, chairman of Guinness Mahon, the merchant banking subsidiary, and Mr Richard Fenhalls, chief executive of the bank, are resigning ahead of a further restructuring of the group.

Mr Frost, who joined only last January, is leaving at the end of this month. Mr Fenhalls, who is credited with having steered Guinness Mahon safely through the endless problems of the parent company, is going at the end of the year.

They are believed to have been offered severance terms of £100,000 for Mr Frost and £160,000 for Mr Fenhalls. Lord Croom, chairman of the group, would not comment on the figures. But he confirmed that a package had been agreed and appropriate details would be given in the accounts.

Guinness Peat said yesterday that the partings were amicable and denied reports that there had been a boardroom row. However, the resignations, which were due to be officially announced to the Stock Exchange today will still come as a surprise.

Lord Croom will become chairman of the merchant banking subsidiary and Mr Alastair Morton, group chief executive, will become executive deputy chairman of the bank. In addition, Mr Bruce Ussell will be promoted to managing director of Guinness Mahon.

Guinness Peat now intends to develop as an investment banking and financial services group with much closer cooperation between Guinness Mahon and other activities such as property development and energy investment. In the last few



Richard Fenhalls: steered bank through problems.

years, Guinness Mahon, under Mr Fenhalls, has remained distinct from the rest of the group which has undergone dramatic rationalization. A Guinness Peat spokesman said the future strategy had been under discussion for several months and both Mr Frost and

Mr Fenhalls had supported the plan at a board meeting last week.

Mr Fenhalls is said to have decided that his job was now done and he wished to move on.

Guinness Peat group was founded by Lord Kissin, who is still president of the group and owns about one tenth of the shares. The group has suffered from heavy losses and write-offs in the last few years and a series of spectacular boardroom rows.

Mr Morton joined the company in 1982 when Mr Edmund Dell was chairman. But Mr Dell left later that year amid continuing boardroom disagreements, and there has been long-running dissensions between Mr Morton and Lord Kissin.

Guinness Peat announced a profit of only £1.26m pretax in the 11 months to September, 1983, but results are expected to show an improvement in the latest year to mid-September, 1984.

## BT 'looking at takeovers'

British Telecom confirmed yesterday that it is looking at a number of telecommunications companies with a view to making acquisitions or proposing joint ventures. However, it "categorically" denied that it had decided to buy a 20 per cent stake in Northern Telecom, the Canadian equipment supplier.

A series of options had been considered for some time by a team led by Mr John King, the board member responsible for marketing and corporate strategy.

## STOCK EXCHANGES

Friday's close and change on week

FT-SE 100 Index: 1173.5 up 9.3  
FT All Share: 554.83 up 5.22  
Bargains: 19,418  
Datastream USM Leadwires Index: 105.44 up 0.96  
New York Dow Jones Industrial Average: 1187.94 down 31.03  
Tokyo Nikkei Dow Jones Index: 1271.45 up 32.17  
Hong Kong Hang Seng Index: 1,071.79 up 24.7  
Amsterdam: 177.3 down 2.2  
Sydney: AO Index 782.5 up 3.3

## CURRENCIES

LONDON

Friday's close and change on week

Sterling Index 78.4 up 0.1  
\$1.2595 down 30pts  
DM 2.3550 up 0.015  
Yen 146.75 up 0.0675  
Yen 305.50 up 1.25  
Dollar Index 139.0 up 0.7  
DM 2.9640 up 0.022  
Sterling \$1.2580  
Dollar DM 2.9680

## BOARD MEETINGS

TODAY - Interims: Forshaw's, Burtonwood Brewery, Ivory & Sons, Finales Australia & New Zealand Banking Group, Concentric, Hoggart Bowers, Swindon Private Hospital.  
TOMORROW - Interims: A. F. Bulgin, Chapman Industries, Garinore America, General Investment, C. E. Heath, Marlborough Property Hgds, Mercury Securities, Metal Box, Radio International, Young & Co's Brewery, Finales Akroyd & Smithers, Diploma, Fashion & General Investment, New Court Trust, Northern American Trust, Union Steel Corp of South Africa.  
WEDNESDAY - Interims: Associated Heat Services, Bulmer & Lums, Energy Finance & General Trust, Higgs Jersey General Investment Trust, Asa AB, LRC International, MK Electric Group, RTD Group, Skelchley, Whitbread & Co, Witan Investment Co, Finales Marine, Adventure Sailing Trust, Scottish Investment Trust.  
THURSDAY - Interims: Alva Investment Trust, Boots, Burnett & Hallamshire, East Midland Allied Press, Exel Group, Feedex Agricultural Industries, French Kier Higgs, Gieves Group, Hunter Saphir, T. Lockyer, Higgs, Morrydown Wine, Powell Duffryn, S & U Stores, TR Natural Resources Investment Trust, Tricentral (third quarter), Walker & Staff Higgs, Warrford Investments, Finales Futurum Investment Trust, Higgses Brewery.  
FRIDAY - Interims: Chloride Group, Meadow Farm Produce, Murray Technology Investments, Wedgwood Finales Tomlinsons.

## Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	10%
Adam & Company	10%
Barclays	10%
BCCI	10%
Citibank Savings	11 1/2%
Consolidated Crds	10 1/2%
Continental Trust	10%
C. Hoare & Co	10%
Lloyds Bank	10%
Midland Bank	10%
Nat Westminster	10%
TSB	10%
Williams & Glyn's	10%
Citibank NA	10%

\* Mortgage Base Rate.  
\* 7 day deposits in sums of under £10,000, plus £10,000 up to £50,000, 7 1/2% £50,000 and over, 8 1/2%.

## Base rate cut to 9.5% expected

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

A half-point reduction in clearing bank base rates is expected this week, after last week's decline in money market interest rates.

The reduction, from 10 to 9 1/2 per cent, should encourage financial markets and help the British Telecom share sale.

Last week the three-month interbank rate fell 1/4 to close on Friday at 9 1/4-9 1/2%. On several occasions, the Bank of England was offered a chance to cut its dealing rates and so endorse a base rate cut.

It refused, but dealers inter-

preted this as a delaying tactic rather than any official indication that base rates should stay at 10 per cent.

An early cut in the Bank's dealing rates is expected, to be followed by a base rate reduction.

Sterling has held steady over the past week, despite expectations of lower UK interest rates and a market view that US interest rate reductions have come to an end. Sterling closed on Friday at \$1.2595, with the sterling index at 76.4.

Mr Stephen Lewis of Phillips

## Al-Fayed's will back Fraser chief in row

By Our City Editor

A public battle over Lord's continued boardroom representation at House of Fraser loomed closer over the weekend, after the Al-Fayed brothers who own 29.9 per cent of the Harrods store group promised to back moves to remove the Lord representative.

The Al-Fayed's position was made clear in a public statement issued by Professor Roland Smith, House of Fraser chairman, at the Al-Fayed's initiative.

The statement said the Al-Fayed brothers had pledged their support, should it be needed, to remove the Lord representative. It also said House of Fraser was aware on November 7 that the three Egyptian brothers, Mohamed, Salah and Ali, were the ultimate owners of the stake. "The board has never doubted that fact," Professor Smith added.

The Al-Fayed bought their stake in House of Fraser for

## Levi jeans group faces profit slump

San Francisco (Reuters) - Levi Strauss, the troubled US jeans group, expects fourth-quarter profits to fall by 97 per cent because of rising costs and falling sales, particularly abroad.

Full-year earnings are expected to be down about 80 per cent and sales 8 per cent lower than in 1983, it said in a statement.

The company expects fourth-quarter net income to decline to about \$1.5 million (£1.195 million), or five cents per share, compared with \$51.6 million or \$1.22 per share reported a year ago. It said sales should drop to about \$600 million from \$705 million last year.

Full-year earnings should total about \$40 million, or \$1.05 per share, on sales of about \$2.5 billion. It reported earnings of \$194.5 million, or \$4.61 per share, on sales of about \$2.73 billion for 1983.

The company said it made the disclosure in a registration statement filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission covering the sale of 250,000 Levi Strauss shares.

The stock is being sold on behalf of Oakland Athletics Baseball Co.

The statement said earnings had declined at a much higher rate than sales because of higher production costs, proportionally greater sales of less profitable products, markdowns on slow moving merchandise and competitive pricing restraints.

There were also significant non-recurring expense and income items in the fourth quarter.

Domestic sales of core products, such as men's basic pre-washed denim jeans, some women's wear and action products in men's wear had been healthy, but other products had not been selling well.

## Old satellites find buyers

Lloyd's, the London insurance market, says it has already had offers for the two communications satellites that the US space shuttle astronauts rescued from a faulty orbit last week.

Mr Stephen Merritt, the underwriter who headed the recovery programme, said Lloyd's is "involved in serious discussions with interested parties. There have been definite offers, and we hope to sell as soon as we get the price."

Both the Indonesian Palapa B2 satellite and the US Westar VI satellites were put into space

by the US shuttle challenger in February, but because of faulty booster rockets they ended up in useless orbits.

Last week, US astronauts of the shuttle Discovery attached a special probe to each of the satellites and hauled them back.

Westar, owned by Western Union, was insured for \$105 million (£83.36 million) and Palapa, owned by the Indonesian Government, for \$75 million (£59.54 million). Lloyd's, which carried part of the insurance, paid out more than \$75 million when the satellites were lost.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Sainsbury expands in Essex

J Sainsbury, the supermarket chain, is continuing its expansion programme. It has started work on a 54,000 sq ft superstore in the centre of Ilford, London. The store adjoins the town centre relief road and it has parking for 420 cars. Sainsbury bought the site from Town & City Properties this year.

Not far away at Barking, it has assembled a 10-acre site linking directly with the A12 trunk road. Sainsbury plans a foodstore of 62,000 sq ft and a 33,000 sq ft unit for Harris Queensway. Parking will be provided for 800 cars.

● **NIGERIAN LEADER** Major General Mohammed Buhari, was quoted by a Saudi Arabian as saying that Nigeria hoped to raise its oil price by the end of this year.

● **UP TO 100,000 jobs** could be lost if the Government agrees to allow British Gas to buy North Sea gas supplies from Norway, according to Mr Allan Gaynor, an energy consultant. He told Channel 4's *The Business Programme* yesterday that the deal could lead to the loss of £10 billion in tax revenues.

● **PRUVENTURE**, the capital arm of Prudential Portfolio Managers, is providing start-up capital for Britain's newest design company, Crighton, which is being launched with equity funding of £250,000.

## Taking the long view on alternative stocks

Michael Jankowski

Throughout this series of articles I have written almost exclusively about the gilt-edged market. There are, however, other fixed interest markets which behave similarly to the gilt market and which have been growing in size and importance.

For example, there is the "bulldog" market which trades within the environs of the gilt market, and deals in sterling fixed interest stocks issued by non-residents. The tax treatment of such issues is similar to gilts with capital gains being free of tax if stocks are held for more than one year. Under the present revenue practice, all these issues also pay their dividends free of withholding tax to overseas residents without application.

There is also the corporate debt market which, up to the early 1970s, equaled the gilt market in size. Recently, there have been a number of new issues in this market which increased liquidity and enhanced its attraction. The capital gains tax provisions are also the same as those affecting gilts.

The bulk of issues in these markets trade at higher yields than those prevailing on gilt-edged issues. The differential, or gross yield difference between such issues and their gilt counterparts, occurs because such issues have an added risk element which must be considered by the investor. If

perceptions of the appropriate yield differential alter, these stocks' prices can alter without any overall market movement being in evidence.

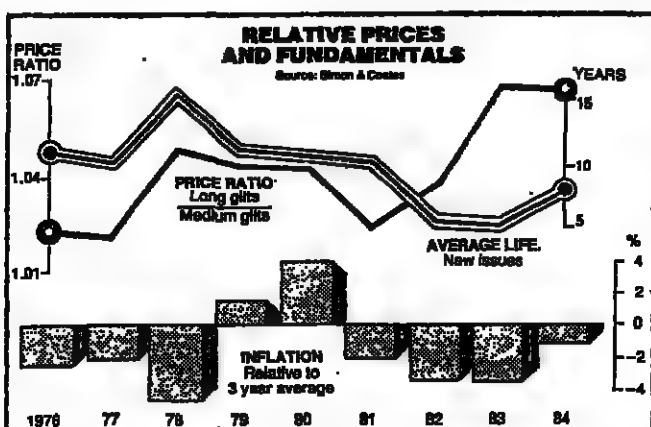
In the two fixed interest markets mentioned above, there is a good case for expecting some narrowing of differentials. These markets would, consequently, outperform the gilt-edged market.

For 21st century non-gilt fixed interest issues a convention has emerged whereby such stocks are valued relative to Treasury 13.5 per cent 2004/08. In 1980 such a procedure seemed reasonable. The above-mentioned gilt was valued as a 2008 stock, and pricing stocks with maturities up to 2010 relative to this gilt was fair.

Now, however, the situation is very different. The above mentioned gilt is priced as a 2004 stock and non-gilt issues with maturities as long as 2024 are being valued relative to it. Such a situation is similar to valuing a 20-year issue relative to overnight money - absurd. There are at present 39 leading bulldog and corporate issues (total value at more than £2.0 billion) which have maturities longer than 2008.

It has been suggested in some circles that this should continue because the longer end of the gilt market is severely distorted due to a shortage of stock. It is

## THE GILT-EDGED MARKET



therefore argued that valuing non-gilt issues relative to something like the Exchequer 2013/17 would give a distorted picture of true yield expectations. The reason why this is important is because the yield on the 13 1/2s is about 50 basis points lower than that on the 04/08s.

Were bulldogs for example to be valued relative to the 13 1/2s there would be a sharp upward price adjustment in the longer end of the bulldog market. It is therefore extremely important as to which view is correct.

There are two problems with the distortion view. First, those individuals who believe a distortion exists in the gilt market should sell the 13 1/2s and buy non-gilts with similar or longer maturities. This would make sense because such issues

are extremely cheap compared to that stock. Second, a stock shortage that creates a price distortion in the market does not fit the facts particularly well. In the period from 1976 to 1981 the outperformance of the longer dated issues (an upward movement in the price ratio line) occurred when more longer dated stock was issued (an increase in the maturity of new issues) - rather than the reverse.

Movements in the inflation rate (relative to past history) explain the movements in the relative price of long/mediums throughout the entire period. This would indicate that the fundamental factor of lower inflation has generated the relative dearth of longer dated issues rather than the notion of scarcity.

As such longer dated non-gilt

## Swire Pacific Limited

## Interim Dividends for 1984

Elections for cash dividends were received by the closing date of 9th November, 1984 for the lodgment of election forms in Hong Kong and in London from the holders of 186,073,864 A shares and 259,945,301 B shares. Accordingly, the following new shares have been allotted to shareholders accepting scrip dividends:

	Number of new shares issued	Proportion of number of existing shares in issue
A shares	1,453,637	.5635%
B shares	12,549,203	1.6435%

Certificates for the new A and B shares, together with dividend warrants for the minimum cash dividends of 1.0¢ per A share and 0.2¢ per B share and for the other cash dividends for which elections were received, will be despatched to shareholders on 20th November, 1984; the Hong Kong Stock Exchange has granted permission for the shares to be quoted and dealt in from that date.

By order of the Board  
JOHN SWIRE & SONS (H.K.) LIMITED  
Secretaries

Hong Kong,  
19th November, 1984

Swire Pacific Limited  
The Swire Group  
Swire House, Hong Kong



Only MWPC027















# Indian passive resistance stifles England

From Richard Streeton Ahmedabad

In the absence of Cowans and Edmonds, there was a worrying lack of penetration in England's attack yesterday as the touring side were given a punishing day in the field by the Indian Under-25 team. Azharuddin made a patient hundred and Srikanth missed one by eight runs as the score reached 304 for three wickets by the close. Loose bowling led to England being dismissed for 216 by tea on Saturday and this weekend has brought their least distinguished cricket so far.

Azharuddin, who batted all day but the batsmen were not to be troubled. Madhavan had added 159 in 200 minutes in their unbroken fourth-wicket stand. Both are 21 and products of Indian age-group cricket, to spot potential talent from the age of nine or 10 onwards.

Azharuddin began with passive intent but gave no chance and drove and square-cut with perfect timing. In England's last match at Jaipur he made 52 not out on the third day and clearly has a bright future.

England's shortcomings in this match must be kept in perspective and could be turned to advantage if the lessons are learnt. Certainly the batsmen - however commendable the urge to score briskly - must remember that success in India comes by concentration, patience and keeping the ball on the ground. Apart from Allott, the quicker bowlers have to learn that they must retain a good line or they are wasting time and energy, and some of the middle-distance fielding must be sharper. Fowler is beyond reproach but, as a captain, he no longer has people saving singles in the inner ring like he and Randall and others did for his predecessors only a few years back.

Srikanth's innings was interesting as he was clearly fighting an inward struggle to eliminate the carelessness outside the off stump which so often has stopped him making big scores. To a large extent he succeeded and perhaps he and Fowler should get together to discuss their common fault. Srikanth has batted far more consistently for South Zone in the past year than ever before. Gekwad nursing an injured foot, he might yet be included as Gavaskar's opening partner when the Indian team for the first Test on November 28 is announced tomorrow.

Allott early on managed to get a ball both to lift and leave Viswanath, who edged a catch to Downton before Srikanth dominated a second-wicket stand with Azharuddin.

Srikanth had one rush of blood with three cracks off-side four against a stinging Allott that took him to 48; and one run later he gave the simplest of chances to Foster at deep mid-off against Ellison which was split. This was bad luck for Ellison, who later twice nearly had Srikanth play on. Ellison has not produced his outstanding yet on this tour but came closer to matching Allott's good direction than Foster.

Srikanth has already hit two sixes and also been dropped by Robinson at long-on before he was out in the same eventful over by Pocock who edged into his stumps by Srikanth, who obviously has

## W Indians sent into spin by Bennett

Sydney (Reuters) - The West Indians were on the verge of defeat by New South Wales after a dramatic batting collapse here yesterday, chasing 205 for victory.

The touring team slumped to 95 for eight at the close of the third day. Murray Bennett, the left-arm spinner, took five for 30, including the wicket of Richards amid high controversy. Bennett sprawled sideways to his left to hold a return catch from Richards, who held his ground, believing he was not out. It was at least a minute before he walked slowly back to the Pavilion, clearly unhappy with the decision.

When New South Wales collapsed for 129 to the spin of Harper (five for 72) and Richards (four for 18) the West Indians looked to have a relatively comfortable target. Ian Khan struck the first blow for New South Wales when he had Greenidge caught behind for nine. Lloyd, who made an unbeaten 64 in the first innings, did his best to arrest the slide with 27 not out.

**NEW SOUTH WALES: First Innings**  
J Dyer not out 38  
S B Smith b Dyer 38  
D W Marnett b Dyer 38  
P Clifford c Greenidge b Harper 34  
G R J Marnett c Payne b Dyer 34  
I Khan c Richardson b Dyer 4  
P Marnett not out 19  
G R J Marnett not out 19  
Extras (b, lb, w, nb) 16  
Total 129

**FALL OF WICKETS:** 1-55, 2-160, 3-254, 4-188, 5-18, 6-217, 7-224, 8-241, 9-284.  
**BOWLING:** Greenidge 1-55, 2-160, 3-254, 4-188, 5-18, 6-217, 7-224, 8-241, 9-284.  
**WICKETS:** Greenidge 1-55, 2-160, 3-254, 4-188, 5-18, 6-217, 7-224, 8-241, 9-284.

**West Indians: First Innings**  
C G Greenidge c Dyer b Marnett 26  
D L Haynes c Marnett b Marnett 26  
A L Lytle c Marnett b Marnett 26  
I Khan c Marnett b Marnett 26  
P Marnett c Marnett b Marnett 26  
Extras (b, lb, w, nb) 16  
Total 205

**FALL OF WICKETS:** 1-17, 2-31, 3-31, 4-51, 5-112, 6-132, 7-171, 8-175, 9-177, 10-212.  
**BOWLING:** Greenidge 1-17, 2-31, 3-31, 4-51, 5-112, 6-132, 7-171, 8-175, 9-177, 10-212.

**PAKISTAN: First Innings**  
Mudassar Nazar c Dyer b Dyer 28  
Javed Miandad c Dyer b Dyer 28  
Zahid Abbas c Dyer b Dyer 28  
Salim Malik b Dyer 28  
Abdul Qadir c Dyer b Dyer 28  
Iqbal Othman c Dyer b Dyer 28  
Tausif Arshad c Dyer b Dyer 28  
Extras (b, lb, w, nb) 16  
Total 221

**FALL OF WICKETS:** 1-54, 2-84, 3-108, 4-114, 5-144, 6-165, 7-188, 8-189, 9-212, 10-212.  
**BOWLING:** Greenidge 1-54, 2-84, 3-108, 4-114, 5-144, 6-165, 7-188, 8-189, 9-212, 10-212.

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**FOOTBALL COMBINATION:** CPR v Oxford United (2.0); Tottenham v Millwall (2.0).

**OTHER SPORT**  
Rugby: Bath v Gloucester (2.0); Worcester v Exeter (2.0).

**CRICKET**  
New South Wales v West Indians (1.0); Australia v England (2.0).

**BOBBSLEIGHING**  
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1925



## Today's television and radio programmes

Summaries by Peter Dear and Peter Davale

## BBC 1

- 6.00 **Celestial AM**.  
6.30 **Breakfast Time** with Frank Bough and Nick Ross. News at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30 with headlines on the quarter hours and at 8.59; sport at 9.40 and 10.40; regional news, weather and 8.15; a review of the morning papers at 7.18 and 8.18; plus Lynn Faulds Wood's consumer affairs report.
- 9.00 **Lyn Marshall's Everyday Yoga**. Exercise five: The Back Push Up (r) 9.10 Food and Drink. The new Beaujolais and the demise of the fish and chip shop are among the items (r) 9.40 **Celestial 10.30** Play School, presented by Liz Watts (r) 10.50 **Celestial**.
- 12.30 **News After Noon** with Richard Whitmore and Frances Cordale. The weather prospects come from Jim Bacon 12.57 **Regional News** (London and SE only; Financial report followed by news headlines with subtitles).
- 1.00 **Pebble Mill at One**. Chris Baines looks at his wild garden in the grounds of Pebble Mill; plus a song from Julie Rogers 1.45 **Pigeon Street** (r).
- 2.00 **The World of Cooking**. The cuisine of Dauphine, as prepared by chef Andre Revest of Grenoble (r) 2.25 **See Hear!** A magazine programme for the hard of hearing (shown yesterday).
- 2.50 **In the Making**. A small rope-making factory in Yorkshire (r) 3.10 **Songs of Praise** from St Mary's Church, Thirsk (shown yesterday) (Celestial 3.48).
- 3.50 **Play School**, presented by Sheelagh Gibbey with guest Brian Cant 4.10 **The Hunter**. Cartoon series 4.15 **The Newsworld**.
- 5.05 **Blue Peter** previews the new children's series, *The Box of Delights*, which begins on Wednesday. (Celestial).
- 5.55 **Gloria** is so wrapped up in her work that she overlooks the needs of her son (Celestial 5.58).
- 6.00 **News** with Sue Lawley and Jeremy Paxman.
- 6.30 **London Play**.
- 6.55 **Harty, Russell Harty** is in Belfast where his guests include smoker ace Dennis Taylor; Werner Heubeck, chief executive of the Ulster Bus Company; folk group Clannad; comedian Frank Carson; Charlie Daze and Gene Fitzpatrick; and the musical McPeake Family.
- 7.40 **Get Set Go!** Fast moving word game, presented by Michael Barrymore.
- 8.10 **Panorama** Spain - the Carrot and the Stick, presented by Fred Emery. An examination of the Spanish government's fight with the Basque separatist group, ETA. Martin Young talks to the Spanish prime minister, Felipe Gonzalez, and meets one of the ETA terrorists who has returned from France to face trial.
- 9.00 **News** with John Humphrys.
- 9.25 **Film: This House Possessed** (1981) starring Patrick Stinson, Liza Elbacher and Joan Bennett. A made-for-television thriller about a sinister force that permeates the estate of a convalescent rock star. Directed by David Levinson. (First showing on British television).
- 11.00 **Film 84**. Highlights of last night's *The Standard Film Awards* for 1984.
- 11.38 **News headlines**.
- 11.40 **18 Up**. The first of three films in which young people give their views on love, sex and marriage (r).
- 12.05 **Weather**.

## TV-am

- 6.25 **Good Morning Britain**, presented by Nanette Newman and Nick Owen. News with Gordon Honeycombe at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 and 9.00; sport at 8.30 and 9.37; guest, Jim Davidson, from 8.45; exercises at 8.48 and 8.50; the day's anniversaries at 8.51; Popeye cartoon at 7.22; pop video at 7.54; astrology at 8.15; Jimmy Greaves's television highlights at 8.34; financial advice at 8.47; a discussion on depression at 9.05.

## ITV/LONDON

- 9.25 **Thames news headlines** 9.30 **For Schools**: A Canadian canoe reaches the sea 9.47 **Learning to read** with Basil Brush 9.59 **A Day in the life of a butcher** 10.12 **House design and energy conservation** 10.32 **The television series "Blinder"** and the people who watch it 11.02 **Traditional customs of Christmas** 11.20 **Numbers and shapes** 11.38 **The River Avon valley in the Loire**.
- 12.00 **Tickle on the Tum** with Ralph McTell and Billy Connolly. 12.10 **Let's Pretend to the story of The Good Makes a Friend**. 12.30 **Circle of Power**. Who holds the reins in East Germany?
- 1.00 **News** at one with Leonard Parker. 1.20 **Thames news** from Robin Houston.
- 1.30 **Film: The Dark Angel** (1955) starring Frederic March as a man who goes missing during the First World War. His heartbroken fiancée marries his cousin before the serviceman makes a mysterious reappearance. Directed by Sidney Franklin. 3.25 **Thames news headlines**. 3.30 **The Young Doctors**.
- 4.00 **Tickle on the Tum**. A repeat of the programme shown at noon. 4.15 **Rub a Dub Dub**. An up-dated and musical version of a nursery rhyme. 4.20 **He-Man and Masters of the Universe**.
- 4.45 **Murphy's Mob**. Serial about a football team. 5.15 **Emmerdale Farm**.
- 5.45 **News** 6.00 **Thames news**. 6.25 **Help** presented by Viv Taylor. The three programmes this week: the adoption of children with special needs and on tonight's programme 11-year-old Keith explains why he wants to be adopted.
- 7.00 **Automania**. A series on man's love affair with the motor car (Oracle) (see Choice).
- 7.30 **Coronation Street**.
- 8.00 **Rising Damp**. The late Leonard Rossiter in a lodging house comedy (r).
- 8.30 **World in Action**: There has been a change in the scheduled programme.
- 9.00 **Quincy**. The pathologist investigates the death of a patient of heart surgeon who is thought to use stand-ins in the operating theatre.
- 10.00 **News** at Ten followed by Thames news headlines.
- 10.30 **7 Up**. Twenty years ago a group of children aged seven from different backgrounds were the subject of a documentary in which they expressed their child-like hopes and fears. Tonight's programme is a repeat of the documentary, tomorrow night the now-adults meet again to see how life has treated them (Oracle).
- 11.15 **Rebun of the Saint**. Two lovely ladies, planning two perfect murders, come into contact with the saint Simon Templar. Starring Ian Ogilvy (r).
- 12.15 **Night Thoughts** from Canon Peter Ball.



Wheeled women: a scene from Automania (ITV, 7.00 pm)

There is, clearly, no limit to the number of swags that can be taken out of the bottle cork. I do not mean the fizzy drink bearing that name but the Granada Television documentary first seen in 1963 and repeated tonight (ITV, 10.30 pm). Fourteen children, all aged seven at the time, were invited to predict what led to the Vietnam War. ("I read the *Financial Times* to find out about my shares" and so on). Seven years later, Granada updated the dossier on the 14 youngsters. Seven years after that, there was another progress report. Tomorrow night and Wednesday night we shall find out how life has treated the group who are now all aged 28.

**PUSHING BACK THE FRONTIERS** (ITV, 7.00 pm), the third film in Central television's

## CHOICE

**Automania** series, concerns itself with the motor world's pioneers such as Mrs Alice Ramsey who drove across the United States in her Maxwell in 1909, with three children (two sisters-in-law and a maid). At least they did not have to chopher about the properties that other women drivers observed, tying down their skirts with cords so that their ankles could not be gawped at as they rattled past in their bonnetless automobiles. Among the other delightful items in tonight's film, which you will have gathered is not aimed exclusively at automanics, is the story of the housemothers who, during their all-Australia marathon, frequently had to have their Whippet winched out of the bogs; and the Le Mans Grand

Prix of 1906 during which the drivers downed so many tires of worn rubber on the track that only 11 of the original 23 starters finished the course.

● Tonight's musical highlight: the Virginia Opera Association's production of *Thaïs* Musgrave's opera *MARY, QUEEN OF SCOTS* (Radio 3, 7.45), has the composer's husband, Peter Marlow, conducting a chorus, orchestra, and soloists that are largely American. This is a performance on records, and the loss of a theatrical atmosphere is regrettable. But the balance might be restored if the performance succeeds in capturing something of the excitement generated when the opera was staged for the first time, in 1977, in the composer's native city of Edinburgh.

Peter Davale

## BBC 2

- 9.00 **Celestial**.
- 9.15 **Daytime on Two**: Working in an office. 9.38 **Celestial** at 9.45. 10.15 **Music**: rhythms, 10.38 **Stalin and the modernization of Russia**. 11.00 **Navigation** a modern ship (Celestial). 11.29 **Thinkabout**. 11.42 **Smoking** causes death but provides the Exchequer with 24,000 million annually.
- 12.10 **Is there any point in becoming involved in politics?** 12.35 **How Britain's landscape was affected by the Ice Age**. 1.00 **Development issues in India**. 1.30 **Celestial**. 1.38 **Archive film of 1912 and 1938**. 2.00 **Words and Pictures**. 2.15 **History: the Enclosure Acts**. 2.40 **Preparing for a pantomime**. Ends at 3.00.
- 3.10 **The Shogun Inheritance**. Part five examines the history of a tea making ceremony. The narrator is Julian Pettifer (r).
- 3.50 **The Year of the Balloon**. A documentary about the French celebrations last year marking the 200th anniversary of the Montgolfier brothers' balloon flight over Paris (r).
- 4.40 **Spotlight**. Comedian and musician Jimmy Edwards talks about his life and career. With help from the Aldershot Brass Ensemble and the British Air Theatre.
- 5.25 **News summary** with subtitles. 5.30 **Hey Look... That's Me!** Chris Harkiss samples the diversions of the Isle of Wight.
- 6.00 **Film: The Two Mrs Carrillos** (1947) starring Barbara Stanwyck and Humphrey Bogart. Thriller about a young woman who marries a widowed artist. A happy marriage to begin with it takes a turn for the worse when the husband paints his wife as an angel of death and she promptly falls ill. Directed by Peter Godfrey.
- 7.35 **Ken Hens**. Chinese Cookery. Noodles are the subject this evening.
- 8.00 **To the Manor Born**. Arthur (Bill Travers), an itinerant worker, makes his annual visit to Granville to help with the haymaking, unaware of the change in ownership. Richard is disinclined to employ him - until Audrey reminds him of his menial duties (r).
- 8.30 **Lame Ducks**. The get-away-from-it-all group of people feel threatened when their glamorous neighbour pays them a visit.
- 9.00 **Laugh???** Nearly Paddy. Paddy's comedy sketches.
- 9.25 **Horizon: The Brain Puzzle**. A documentary on the latest research into the feasibility of repairing human brains.
- 10.15 **Frank Delaney** says "what is a photograph?". His question is answered by art critic John Berger, photo-journalist Eva Arnold and Dr Mike Weaver.
- 10.55 **Nightwatch**.
- 11.40 **Buongiorno Italia!** Part six of the Italian conversation course (r). Ends at 12.10.

## CHANNEL 4

- 2.35 **Vietnam - The Ten Thousand Day War**. Part five of 26-episode story of the events which led to the Vietnam War with the period when President Kennedy began to doubt the wisdom of his country's involvement in Vietnam. Nevertheless, he tacitly backed a military coup that ousted Diem, who was later assassinated.
- 3.00 **The Late Late Show**. Highlights of the programme shown on the RTE network on Saturday evenings.
- 4.00 **A Plus 4**. Discussion, music and comment, presented by Gill Nevill and Paul Jones.
- 4.30 **Continued**. The reigning champion of the words and numbers game, Robert Voleit, is challenged by Ken Yates from Middlebrough.
- 5.00 **Alice**. Comedy at the Phoenix, Arizona diner where the waitresses band together to help their boss kick the habit of drinking. He almost loses the job in a bar.
- 5.30 **Black and White and Read All Over**. The second in the series about books for the pre-teenager, presented by Dona Croll and Michael Rosen. This week's guest is Guyanese poet, John Agard.
- 6.00 **Counting On**. In today's edition of the series that takes the mystique away from everyday mathematical problems Fred Harris deals with inflation and how it is calculated from a variety of indexes and averages (r).
- 6.30 **Gallery**. George Melly is in the chair for another round of the art quiz. In Frank Whitford's team are Waldemar Januszczak, art critic of the *Independent*, and student Nicola Roberts of Manchester. Maggi Hambling's side consists of Geraldine Norman, salesroom correspondent of *The Times* and student Francis Convery from Edinburgh.
- 7.00 **Channel Four News**.
- 7.50 **Comment** from humorist and writer, Gail Kyles.
- 8.00 **Brookside**. Pat decides to stop Harry's prying around the house by having the locks changed.
- 8.30 **Fairy Secret Army**. Geoffrey Palmer stars as retired Major Truscott who is dedicating his life to raising an army to overthrow the "raving leftist loonies" who have gained power in Britain.
- 9.00 **The Algerian War**. Part three of the five-episode documentary about Algeria's struggle for independence from France between 1954 and 1962.
- 10.00 **St Elsewhere**. Dr Craig is chosen to star in a television documentary about St Eligius but he becomes upset when the camera crew begin to stage manage the drama.
- 10.55 **The Eleventh Hour**. Hand. Five working class men answer questions on family life - with particular reference to their feelings about their fathers.
- 12.30 **Closedown**.

## Radio 4

- As long wave, 1 denotes stereo on VHF.
- 6.00 **News Briefing**. Weather. 6.10 **Farming Week** from Northern Ireland. 6.20 **The Day**. Today, 6.30, 7.30, 8.30 **News summary**. 6.55, 7.55, 8.25 **Sport**. 7.45 **Thought for the Day**. 7.55 **The Week On 4**. A look ahead. 8.43 **Glyn Worsnip** in the BBC Sound Archives. 8.57 **Weather**. Travel. 9.05 **Start the Week** with Richard Baker and his guests. 9.10 **News**. Monday. Financial matters. With Louise Botting (r).
- 10.30 **Morning Story**: A Bit of Young Life by Noddy Gorden. Read by David Gifford. 10.45 **Daily Service** (Nem. page 34). 11.00 **Travel**: Down Your Way. 11.10 **Relax**. 11.40 **One Man and His Radio**. 12.00 **News**: You and Yours. Consumer advice. With Jill Baker, and Anthony Hyde. 12.27 **Anything Legal**. Comedy series by Wally K. Wally starring Donald Westman and John Barker. A Tale of Two City Girls. 12.55 **Weather**.
- 1.40 **The World At One**. News. 1.48 **The Archers**. 1.55 **Shipping Forecast**. 2.00 **News**: Woman's Hour from Jordan. 2.10 **Headline and Queen**. Noor ul-Walida. 2.15 **Mardi Gras** in the Royal Palace, Amman. And record 10 of Best Company.
- 3.00 **News**: The Tenthousand Day War. 3.10 **News**: The Tenthousand Day War. 3.20 **News**: The Tenthousand Day War. 3.30 **News**: The Tenthousand Day War. 3.40 **News**: The Tenthousand Day War. 3.50 **News**: The Tenthousand Day War. 4.00 **News**: The Tenthousand Day War. 4.10 **News**: The Tenthousand Day War. 4.20 **News**: The Tenthousand Day War. 4.30 **News**: The Tenthousand Day War. 4.40 **News**: The Tenthousand Day War. 4.50 **News**: The Tenthousand Day War. 5.00 **News**: The Tenthousand Day War. 5.10 **News**: The Tenthousand Day War. 5.20 **News**: The Tenthousand Day War. 5.30 **News**: The Tenthousand Day War. 5.40 **News**: The Tenthousand Day War. 5.50 **News**: The Tenthousand Day War. 6.00 **News**: The Tenthousand Day War. 6.10 **News**: The Tenthousand Day War. 6.20 **News**: The Tenthousand Day War. 6.30 **News**: The Tenthousand Day War. 6.40 **News**: The Tenthousand Day War. 6.50 **News**: The Tenthousand Day War. 7.00 **News**: The Tenthousand Day War. 7.10 **News**: The Tenthousand Day War. 7.20 **News**: The Tenthousand Day War. 7.30 **News**: The Tenthousand Day War. 7.40 **News**: The Tenthousand Day War. 7.50 **News**: The Tenthousand Day War. 8.00 **News**: The Tenthousand Day War. 8.10 **News**: The Tenthousand Day War. 8.20 **News**: The Tenthousand Day War. 8.30 **News**: The Tenthousand Day War. 8.40 **News**: The Tenthousand Day War. 8.50 **News**: The Tenthousand Day War. 9.00 **News**: The Tenthousand Day War. 9.10 **News**: The Tenthousand Day War. 9.20 **News**: The Tenthousand Day War. 9.30 **News**: The Tenthousand Day War. 9.40 **News**: The Tenthousand Day War. 9.50 **News**: The Tenthousand Day War. 10.00 **News**: The Tenthousand Day War. 10.10 **News**: The Tenthousand Day War. 10.20 **News**: The Tenthousand Day War. 10.30 **News**: The Tenthousand Day War. 10.40 **News**: The Tenthousand Day War. 10.50 **News**: The Tenthousand Day War. 11.00 **News**: The Tenthousand Day War. 11.10 **News**: The Tenthousand Day War. 11.20 **News**: The Tenthousand Day War. 11.30 **News**: The Tenthousand Day War. 11.40 **News**: The Tenthousand Day War. 11.50 **News**: The Tenthousand Day War. 12.00 **News**: The Tenthousand Day War. 12.10 **News**: The Tenthousand Day War. 12.20 **News**: The Tenthousand Day War. 12.30 **News**: The Tenthousand Day War. 12.40 **News**: The Tenthousand Day War. 12.50 **News**: The Tenthousand Day War.

## Radio 3

- 6.55 **Weather**. 7.05 **News**. 7.25 **Morning Concert**: Part One. Schock's *Sommernacht Op 58*; Beethoven's *Violin Concerto in D* Op 34 (Arising, please! Wabner's symphony No 5 (Academy of St Martin in the Fields/Marriner). 8.00 **News**. 8.05 **Morning Concert**: Part Two. Camerata's *Sinfonia Concertante* in C (Camerata Bern, with solo instrumentalists); Schumann's *Introduction and Allegro Appassionato* Op 82 (Ashkenazy and the LSO; St. Pragues Op 28). 9.05 **The Week's Composer**: Rimsky-Korsakov. Overture on Russian Themes; From Homer (with solo singers: Mervyn, Isakova and Novikova; Not the Wind; Ocarina (Vishnevskaya); Suite (Rostropovich); Suite (Tashtanov). 10.00 **Andor Foldes**: piano recital. Includes works by Bech, Schubert (Two impromptus in A flat major, D 935 No 2 and in G flat major, D 938 No 3), and Debussy (Eight Preludes), including *La Puerta del Vino*. 10.40 **Two Harpists**: A weekly review of discoveries and developments in the world of science and technology. With Peter Evans. 11.05 **Russian Song**: Hilary Thomas (Soprano) with Keith Swallow (piano). Songs by Dargomizhsky, Eliseyevich and Rachmaninov (including *O stay my love* Op 4 No 1). 11.50 **BBC Welsh SO** (Leshel conducting). With Raphael Walfisch (cello). Block's *Voice in Wilderness*; Dvorak's *Symphony No 7*. 1.00 **News**. 1.05 **BBC Lunchtime Concert**: Borodin *Piano Trio*; Tchaikovsky's *Trio in A minor* Op 50. 2.00 **Music Weekly**: Includes a conversation with the Borodin Piano Trio; John Pratt on Handel's *Hercules* (r). 2.45 **New Records**: New Records. 2.55 **Taverner's Mass**: Gloria Tibi (Taverner's Mass). 3.00 **Concerto No 2** (Ashkenazy/Vienna Philharmonic); Lerner's (gr. Symphonies). 3.15 **Pierre Petit's Tarentelle**; Dukas's *The Sorcerer's Apprentice*. 4.55 **News**. 5.00 **Mainly for Pleasure**: another of Natalie Whelan's selections. 6.30 **Music for Organ**: Graham Elliott, on the Waltham Abbey organ. 6.45 **French Choral No 1 in E major: Burth's *Fantasy for organ*. 7.05 **Chopin and Beethoven**: David Wilde (piano) plays Chopin's *Fantasy in C minor* Op 11.1. 7.45 **Scottish Season**: The Musgrave's three-act opera *Mary, Queen of Scots*, sung in English. 8.00 **News**. 8.15 **Scottish Season**: The Musgrave's three-act opera *Mary, Queen of Scots*, sung in English. 8.30 **News**. 8.45 **Scottish Season**: The Musgrave's three-act opera *Mary, Queen of Scots*, sung in English. 8.55 **Scottish Season**: The Musgrave's three-act opera *Mary, Queen of Scots*, sung in English. 9.00 **News**. 9.15 **Scottish Season**: The Musgrave's three-act opera *Mary, Queen of Scots*, sung in English. 9.30 **News**. 9.45 **Scottish Season**: The Musgrave's three-act opera *Mary, Queen of Scots*, sung in English. 10.00 **News**. 10.15 **Scottish Season**: The Musgrave's three-act opera *Mary, Queen of Scots*, sung in English. 10.30 **News**. 10.45 **Scottish Season**: The Musgrave's three-act opera *Mary, Queen of Scots*, sung in English. 11.00 **News**. 11.15 **Scottish Season**: The Musgrave's three-act opera *Mary, Queen of Scots*, sung in English. 11.30 **News**. 11.45 **Scottish Season**: The Musgrave's three-act opera *Mary, Queen of Scots*, sung in English. 12.00 **News**. 12.15 **Scottish Season**: The Musgrave's three-act opera *Mary, Queen of Scots*, sung in English. 12.30 **News**. 12.45 **Scottish Season**: The Musgrave's three-act opera *Mary, Queen of Scots*, sung in English. 12.50 **News**. 13.00 **Scottish Season**: The Musgrave's three-act opera *Mary, Queen of Scots*, sung in English.**

## Radio 2

- On medium wave, 1 denotes also VHF stereo. News on the hour. Headlines 5.30am, 6.30, 7.30, 8.30, 9.30, 10.30, 11.30, 12.30. 4.00am Colin Barry presents *The Early Show*. 5.30am Mary McKeown. 6.15am *Pause for Thought*. 7.30am *Today's Topical*. 8.30am *Today's Topical*. 9.30am *Today's Topical*. 10.30am *Today's Topical*. 11.30am *Today's Topical*. 12.30am *Today's Topical*. 1.30am *Today's Topical*. 2.30am *Today's Topical*. 3.30am *Today's Topical*. 4.30am *Today's Topical*. 5.30am *Today's Topical*. 6.30am *Today's Topical*. 7.30am *Today's Topical*. 8.30am *Today's Topical*. 9.30am *Today's Topical*. 10.30am *Today's Topical*. 11.30am *Today's Topical*. 12.30am *Today's Topical*. 1.30am *Today's Topical*. 2.30am *Today's Topical*. 3.30am *Today's Topical*. 4.30am *Today's Topical*. 5.30am *Today's Topical*. 6.30am *Today's Topical*. 7.30am *Today's Topical*. 8.30am *Today's Topical*. 9.30am *Today's Topical*. 10.30am *Today's Topical*. 11.30am *Today's Topical*. 12.30am *Today's Topical*. 1.30am *Today's Topical*. 2.30am *Today's Topical*. 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# Bishops to meet NUM despite Gummer

Continued from page 1

officials, the Archbishop of Canterbury and York, and senior figures in the Roman Catholic and Free churches have not yet been completed.

Mr Peter Heathfield, general secretary of the miners' union, said last night: "Initially, the important thing is to establish contact."

The Anglican bishops did not see the talks as a "mini-Acas", he added, suggesting that the church initiative will not lead swiftly to any mediation bringing the parties together. "But hopefully they will be able to bring pressure on the Government and the board to be a bit more realistic in their discussions."

"We shall state our case, and our concerns for the future and the fact that MacGregor has turned topsy-turvy the systems that have prevailed in British mining since the industry was nationalized in 1947, and how he was appointed to do just that," Mr Heathfield said.

The board, through its chief spokesman, has already written off the Anglican initiative as a "dead duck", but NUM leaders saw Mr Heathfield's sermon as evidence of Government anxiety that the church could break the current deadlock in favour of the striking miners.

The NUM executive decided last week to approach all organizations that have voiced some support for the plight of strikers who have been without pay for nine months and Dr Runcie Runcie readily agreed to discuss the prospects for mediating in the dispute.

Mr Heathfield condemned the Tory Party chairman's sermon, saying: "I would be astonished if the church leaders were not expressing concern about the hardship and poverty in the mining communities."

The history of the church indicates that they are concerned about people in dire circumstances.

A Church of Scotland minister compared the pit closure programme with the Highland clearances during a strong attack on the Government delivered in a sermon in Edinburgh yesterday (the Press Association reports).

The Rev Ron Ferguson, from Inverness, said the church must not remain silent "as the miners are pushed to the wall".

Criticizing Scottish churchmen for their "shameful silence", he said that if the miners were beaten "the very stones of urban Scotland would cry out".

# 'Shower' helps warship weather atom blast



HMS Illustrious taking the decontamination shower which is part of her survival kit. Sea water from 250 nozzles washes away radioactivity.

By Rodney Cawton, Defence Correspondent

The British aircraft carrier HMS Illustrious takes a shower while plunging into a North Sea gale. From 250 nozzles built into the decks and superstructure sea water cascades over the ship at a rate of one and a half million gallons an hour.

This might seem like overdoing things in view of the fact that the ship had already been drenched for half a day as it steamed through 20ft waves. However, there is a purpose. It was part of a test of the procedures which would be used to enable Illustrious and her crew to survive a nuclear attack.

The purpose of this dowsing, or "pre-wetting" as it is called, is to wash away any radioactive particles which settle on her after a nuclear explosion. Rear Admiral Robin Flegg said that pre-wetting would remove 95 per cent of any such material on the external surfaces of the ship.

Below decks the ship was sealed off into three "citadels", each isolated by air-tight doors and air locks. Within them air was pumped up to pressures higher than those outside, preventing contamination.

Leaving only the minimum number of people needed to operate the ship, the rest of the crew went to "shelter" stations.

Positions located as low and as centrally as possible in the citadels, where they would gain the maximum protection from steel and water.

Members of the crew who had to work outside the citadels, on the flight deck or in the aircraft hanger, wore carbon-impregnated protective clothes.

Although there were warnings of the threat posed by surface or sub-surface explosions, of tidal waves, and damage that might be caused by electro-magnetic pulse, Admiral Flegg said that in a nuclear attack a ship had several advantages over air or land forces.

# Briton held for Cairo plot admits Libya ties

Continued from page 1

Egyptian Interior Minister, told reporters that when the four-man squad arrived in Cairo last month they unwittingly recruited internal security officers as assassins.

These men then faked Mr Bakoush's death, with the help of red paint, and sent photographs of the victim lying in a pool of blood to the Libyan People's Bureau in Malta.

Tripoli radio announced Mr Bakoush's "execution" on Friday and Colonel Gaddafi reportedly said he would give the assassins as much money as they wanted.

At a press conference on Saturday Mr Rosshi produced Mr Bakoush alive and well. Mr Rosshi said the Libyans had initially promised the hit squad \$250,000, with a further \$150,000 for the Egyptian killers.

Mr Bakoush said: "They were definitely mercenaries involved. They had nothing to do with politics. I know that they were recruited in Malta and London."

# Letter from Bonn

## Envoys act to win hearts and minds

Bonn, as the cliché has it, is a small town in Germany with a disproportionately large number of foreign residents. Indeed, in the sedate diplomatic suburb of Bad Godesberg foreigners account for 12 per cent of the population, and the cacophony in the super-markets is matched by the ubiquitous black, diplomatically plated Mercedes.

Embassies are so thick on the ground that we have a dozen within five minutes of our house, and we barely noticed when a new one - Honduras - popped up above the local chemist's a few months ago.

One result of having one of the world's biggest and brightest diplomatic corps concentrated in a town the equivalent of Bath that still retains its sleepy reputation as a retirement home for gentlemen is that they get bored.

Few venture down the autobahn to Cologne, and frankly there is not much night-life in Bad Godesberg apart from the folksy inns beside the Rhine and the obligatory diplomatic dinner parties.

The Federal Government knows all about the problems - its own Foreign Ministry officials tend to be somewhat lukewarm about a home posting - and to its credit has made great efforts to brighten things up in recent years, not least by lavishing money on the opera to attract top singers and musicians to the capital, and sponsoring lectures, art exhibitions, elegant summer concerts and boozey trips down the Rhine for the foreign press.

But integrating the plethora of foreigners with the existing local people is no easy task, especially as most outsiders are picked to find they command so little rarity value and quickly fall into bad habits such as visiting the American cinema and grumbling about the oppressive weather.

One man especially anxious to build bridges is the chairman of the Bad Godesberg local council, and among his initiatives he has persuaded embassies to contribute to his Christmas carols. The British have provided a choir, the Americans a youth band and people are still talking about a Dutch councillor's notable performance as Father Christmas.

Michael Binyon

But perhaps nothing has been as spectacularly successful as the British Embassy Players, who this week have staged Alan Ayckbourn's *Absent Friends*, their tenth play in Bad Godesberg for which, as usual, all seats were long sold out on all three nights. So famed are the plays by how, and so high the standard, that not only do the local papers produce serious half-page reviews, but Bonn University students and heads of ministerial departments have been known suddenly to cultivate their British connections in the discreet hope of a ticket or two.

Set up in 1980 largely by Marjorie Wright, now Ambassador in Washington, the players started with the proven fare of amateur theatricals - *Blithe Spirit* and *The Importance of Being Earnest* - but quickly moved on to a more adventurous routine of a big summer production - usually Shakespeare - and an autumn modern where latent talent among newly arrived third secretaries could be nurtured.

"It's the kind of thing embassies in the sticks are used to doing to keep themselves sane," Mr Alastair Hunter, the Head of Chancery, said. "I never thought I would be acting in a busy West European capital." But his performances have not gone unnoticed; political discussions with German counterparts invariably begin with exclamations of recognition of Oberon, Jack Worthing or Thomas à Becket.

Whether diplomats find it all a cathartic release from Federal German politics is too nice a question to put. They certainly find it time-consuming. But there is a clear reply to those who wonder whether HMG should be financing its representatives to strut the stage in pantaloons: Germans, above all people, take *Kultur* seriously, and are mightily impressed by artistic excellence.

If diplomacy is winning hearts and minds as well as saving a few million Euros in Brussels, then the Bonn Embassy could hardly have hit on a more Machiavellian scheme for making its mark. "We do even have Freidrich Zimmermann, the Interior Minister, on our mailing list," Mr Hunter said.

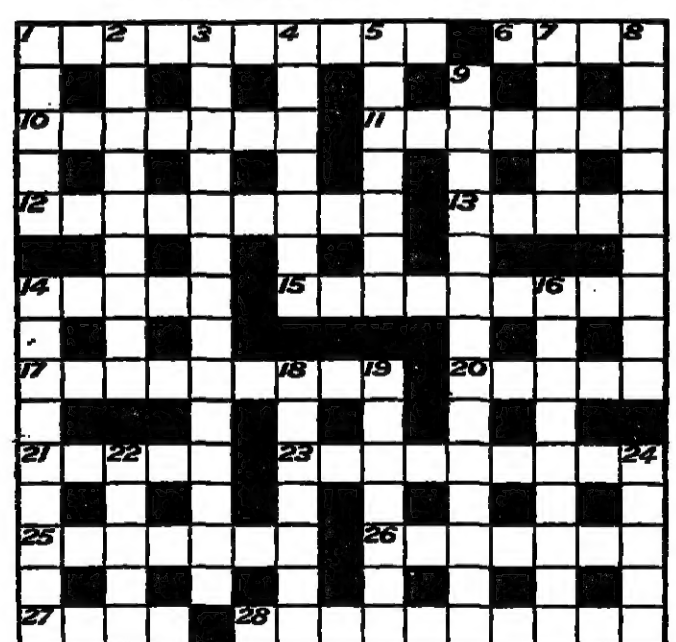
# THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

## Today's events

Royal engagements  
Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother attends the Royal Variety

Performance, Victoria Palace, London, 7.45.  
Princess Anne attends a service in Westminster Abbey to celebrate the launching of the new Charing Cross and Westminster Medical School.

## The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,589



- ACROSS
- 1 Strategem invented to take in one law officer (10).
  - 6 Exult loudly with the old penny press (4).
  - 10 Bolshevik embraces egghead - first of those showing tolerance (7).
  - 11 Pompous rubbish in 7? Not right (7).
  - 12 Shoots back to keep an eye on the timer (4-5).
  - 14 Went on horseback round the cattle enclosure (5).
  - 15 Nod, for example, such an ideal place? (9).
  - 17 Sound plant to produce a sauce thicker (9).
  - 20 America has high-class railway - a source of much interest (5).
  - 21 A great deal of influence (5).
  - 23 Reverse vehicle in front of board? That's easily managed (9).
  - 25 In Chinese capital, one's gold tooth is seen (7).
  - 26 Copy claim made to goddess to be the cat's whiskers (7).
  - 27 Feature, as opposed to eyes, do we hear? (4).
  - 28 Vessel one cannot serve, we learn from Holy Writ? (3-7).
- DOWN
- 1 A great distance, to a Roman soldier (5).
  - 2 General's first foreign articles about prisoner are explosive (9).

The Solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 16,588 will appear next Saturday

CONCISE CROSSWORD PAGE 12

## Nature notes

The only birds singing regularly as the bleak weather comes on are robins, wrens and hedge-sparrows; but on a fine morning or evening, the first songsters are heard again. Starlings are swarming in garden crab-apple trees, pecking wistfully at the bright red fruit. Winter visitors whose numbers are increasing are hen-harriers, which glide with their wings lifted as they hunt over marshes and heaths; and Bewick's swans, now gathering in large flocks in the Cambridgeshire fens and along the east coast.

Older hornbeams have lost most of their leaves, but the young ones are still a fierce yellow. Under the black Italian poplars, leaves are scattered on the wet ground like thousands of lemon-coloured ash of spades. The texture of tree-bark shows more clearly as the leaves disappear: ash twigs are a smooth grey, stained with olive; sweet-chestnut trunks are a deeply cleft pattern of swirling lines, crisscrossing into diamond shapes. The tiny muntjac deer now found wild in much of southern England bark like a dog at night, and are more commonly heard than seen; but in these late days of autumn they are sometimes glimpsed among the crumpling purple bracken.

## The pound

	Bank	Bank
Australia \$	27.38	27.38
Belgium F	36.48	36.48
Denmark D	13.75	13.75
France F	148.22	148.22
Germany DM	2.36	2.36
Italy L	178.33	178.33
Japan Yen	320.00	320.00
Netherlands Gld	4.25	4.25
Spain Ptas	166.64	166.64
Sweden Kr	11.08	11.08
Switzerland Fr	2.05	2.05
USA \$	1.28	1.28
Yugoslavia D	280.00	280.00

Winning numbers in the weekly draw for Premium Bond prizes are £100,000: 232W 56676 (the winner lives in Bournemouth); £50,000: 21VK 65748 (Cornwall); £25,000: 10PB 45708 (Cambridgeshire).

## Weather

A depression over France will move slowly, while another shallow depression over the North Sea will be almost stationary, maintaining a cloudy E to NE airstream over most districts.

London central & England, Midlands and Wales at first, but dry with some bright intervals; wind N, light; max temp 6 to 10C (45 to 50F).

East Angles, E. central N. NE England, Wales, central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland mainly dry and cloudy, outbreaks of rain and drizzle; wind N to NE, light; max temp 7 to 9C (45 to 49F).

Wales, Lake of Man, Argyll, NW Scotland, Northern Ireland: rather cloudy with scattered showers but some bright intervals; wind N to moderate; max temp 8 to 10C (46 to 50F).

NW England, Lake District, SW Scotland: rather cloudy with scattered showers, drizzle or rain; wind N, moderate; max temp 8 to 9C (46 to 49F).

Mostly cloudy with occasional rain or drizzle, but clear in W tomorrow; rather cold.

Sea: a depression off the North Sea, off the coast of West Wales, light, sea, smooth. English Channel (E) Wind NE, backing NW, moderate or fresh; sea slight or moderate. St George's Channel, Irish Sea: Wind NW, light or moderate; sea, slight.

### Yesterday

	Temperatures at midday yesterday: c, cloudy; dr, drizzle; f, fair; r, rain
Belfast	8-13
Birmingham	8-14
Bristol	10-15
Cardiff	8-13
Edinburgh	6-12
Glasgow	6-12

### London

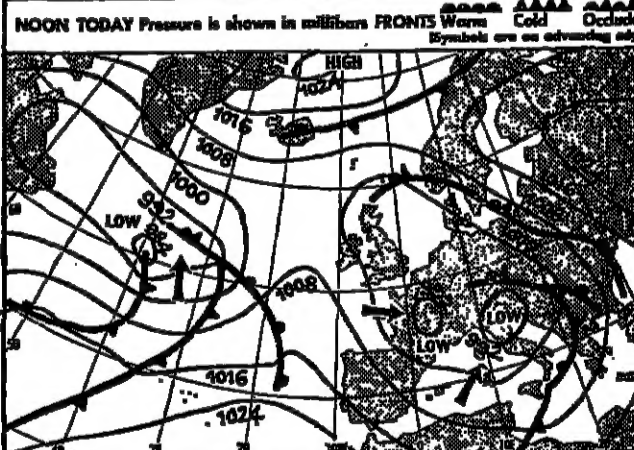
Forecast: Temp: max 8 am to 6 pm, 10C (50F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 5C (41F); Humidity: 6 pm, 90 per cent; Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, 0.0in. Sea: 24hr to 6 pm, 2-7 ft. Sea, mean sea level, 6 pm, 997.2 meters.
Sat: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 9C (48F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 5C (41F); Humidity: 6 pm, 90 per cent; Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, 0.1in. Sea: 24hr to 6 pm, 2-7 ft. Sea, mean sea level, 6 pm, 1000.5 meters = 29.52in.

### Highest and lowest

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Solihull 12C (54F); lowest day temp: Birmingham 5C (41F); Highest rainfall: Colwyn Bay 1.0in; Highest sunshine: London Weather Centre 2.7 hr.
Saturday: Highest day temp: Solihull 12C (54F); lowest day temp: Solihull 5C (41F); Highest rainfall: Hastings 0.5in; Highest sunshine: Penzance 5.1 hr.

### High tides

	AM	MT	PM	HT
London	10.10	6.02	10.37	6.7
Aberdeen	10.13	5.59	10.19	6.1
Amsterdam	10.12	11.2	10.19	6.1
Belfast	7.49	5.1	7.59	6.5
Birmingham	10.12	10.4	10.4	11.0
Bristol	7.21	4.8	7.24	6.1
Dover	7.53	6.0	8.06	6.1
Edinburgh	12.22	4.5	1.54	6.0
Glasgow	7.45	5.0	7.17	6.3
Hull	7.25	6.3	7.21	6.1
London	10.10	6.02	10.37	6.7
Manchester	7.25	5.1	7.25	6.2
London	10.10	6.02	10.37	6.7
London	10.10	6.02	10.37	6.7



### Around Britain

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
South	1-2	1-2	1-2	1-2	1-2	1-2	1-2
West	1-2	1-2	1-2	1-2	1-2	1-2	1-2
North	1-2	1-2	1-2	1-2	1-2	1-2	1-2

### Lighting up time

	Sun rises	Sun sets
London	7.25 am	4.05 pm
Edinburgh	7.25 am	4.05 pm
Manchester	7.25 am	4.05 pm
Penzance	7.25 am	4.05 pm

# TEACHER'S. A WELCOME AWAITING.